World Teacher

(ワールド・ティーチャー -異世界式教育エージェント-)

Volume 08

School Revolution Arc

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Story Description:

A man who was once called the world's strongest agent ended up becoming a teacher after his retirement, to train a new generation of agents. After many years of training his disciples, he was killed at the age of 60 by a secret organization's ruse and was reincarnated in another world with his memories intact.

Though he was surprised by the existence of magic and the strange species in that world, he quickly adapted to his condition as a newborn and took advantage of it. He acquired special magic and gained a massive amount of strength thanks to his rigorous discipline, in order to reach his goal: Resume his career as a teacher which he left halfway through in his previous life.

This is the story of a man, who, based on the memories and the experiences of his previous life, became a teacher who travels through the world with his students.

Original Story can be found here: Link

Chapter 45: While the Cat is Away

– A few days following the events at the castle –

Right after Reese was once again able to attend school, she finished moving into Diamond Cottage.

“I-I am incompetent, but please treat me well.” (Reese)

It’s not that I don’t understand her being tense, since she didn’t live under one roof with me before, but she says that as though we were newlyweds. Although I did become an acquaintance of both Princess Lifell and the King, we didn’t confess to each other or get engaged in particular.

Emilia appeared to be mad at my reaction, or lackthereof, when Reese vaguely muttered those words.

“Sirius-sama! To a girl, staying under the same roof is very important!” (Emilia)

Well, there’s no way Reese is simply imitating her excitement about this; she probably is intoxicated by these feelings, having never felt them before. She is at the age where she is oversensitive when it comes to her feelings, so I don’t need to worry about her words.

Probably.

“Sorry, sorry. By the way, when changing clothes or something, please be careful and hide in a place where you won’t be easily seen. I’ll be sure to be careful as well.” (Sirius)

“It’s not necessary for Sirius-sama to be careful. Here you go, this is the key to our room.” (Emilia)

“Why are you giving it to me when I have the master key?” (Sirius)

Because I’m something like the manager for Diamond Cottage, I have the master key. Therefore, it’s pointless to give me their key.

“That is because… we will always waiting for you if you want to sneak into our room.” (Emilia)

Her cheeks were dyed with red as she blushed, and she ran away while making some kind of delightful cry. I am thankful to Erina for teaching her various things, but she didn't teach her that, right? She is far too young to have such knowledge, you know.

Since I don't have any intention to do that in the first place, I politely return the key.

Unlike before, now that all of the disciples are living under one roof, it is a lot easier for us to coordinate our daily schedules.

In particular, Emilia's burden is reduced. She doesn't have to travel far to wake me every morning, so she can rest a little more. Furthermore, she has been in a very good mood after moving in. She's shown even more promise, recently acquiring a new wind magic.

Mock battles with Reus have also changed substantially. I've started attacking from all around, and in various ways. In actual fights, enemies won't only attack from the front, thus it is imperative that he learns to deal with feints and surprise attacks.

Reese is surely at peak condition after reconciling with her father. At first I worried, as she blushed and looked away whenever our eyes met. After a bit of time though, she adjusted to the current situation, even creating a new magic and proactively training it. There's been nothing but fun, productive days, followed by cheerful conversations each dinner.

Today, we were all up early and gathered in the courtyard. I look away from our target for training, and face the disciples directly.

"We are going for a run today as well. Our destination is that mountain, go at once."

"""Yes."""" (Emilia/Reese/Reus)

—

While we are still continuing our training, three years have passed since we first arrived at the academy.

Entrance exams and interviews for the new school year completed a few days ago, and by now the new students had all finished moving in. When I see new students coming from various races, wearing new robes and gathered in front of the auditorium, I feel a distinct sense of nostalgia, despite it only having been three years since we first arrived.

Though I missed those times, I didn't miss the most annoying thing that happens during this period.

"Nice to meet you, Senpai. This is too sudden, but will you have a match with me?" (Freshman A)

"Aren't you incompetent? I don't care what cowardly methods you use, incompetents should be at the bottom." (Freshman B)

"This incompetent is the strongest? Strongest suits the name of my family." (Freshman C)

... New students trying to show off their strength to everyone else and claim dominance.

Why I, who's known to be colorless, is getting this treatment?

That is because there's a rumor going around that I'm the strongest person in the school. It's been spread around that I've fought nobles for Reese's sake, but my abilities were never expressly shown.

According to the well informed underling of Reus, it appears that the rumor seems to spread on its own.

It doesn't help my case that Emilia and Reus are always by my side.

Emilia is regarded as one of the top three in the school as far as beauty goes, and her physical ability is very high, to say nothing of her magic aptitude. Moreover, because of her courtesy and charm, she is very popular among men and women who don't discriminate against beastkin, and is said to be the perfect woman.

Meanwhile, Reus has defeated every opponent who challenged him, including those regarded as top of their class in terms of strength, and now is called the strongest swordsman in the school.

‘Taking along these two, what kind of magnificent person is he, despite being colorless?’ …That’s how it become that kind of talk.

Since it is said that I’m training the siblings, the story started getting more and more exaggerated, until it was completely fictional. That rumor gave birth to more, and eventually the idea that I was the strongest in the school was cemented.

There is even strange talk about standing at the top of the school if they defeat me. There was no end to the challenges for me from new students for nearly half a month, last year.

That’s why, the new students who got fooled by these rumors came to challenge me again this year…

“You guys, don’t think about making pass on Aniki before me.” (Reus)

It goes without saying that Reus takes up those challenges instead of me. He just takes the new students across the street, beats them in no time, and that’s the end.

Those who saw this scene judged that it’s impossible to charge from the front, so they attempted surprise attacks by using long range magic and weapons. However, everything was deflected by Emilia’s magic and countered with her [Air Shot], and those who ate it were sent off to the medical room.

“Anyone who makes a pass at Sirius-sama will be punished.” (Emilia)

Since the siblings took care of everyone who tried to fight against me, the credibility of the rumor increased.

I was also targeted when I was alone, so I let them lead me to places away from the public eye, and proceeded to beat them up without reserve. Some would hide a short distance from the road, so I would quickly move out of their view and sneak up on them during their confusion. Putting them in a stranglehold and tossing them to the ground was more than enough.

‘The school is a fierce place once you enter’… that’s what the headmaster told me, but there wasn’t a trace of pity in his voice. He was

upset by the decline in talent of the previous years, so he viewed this as a blessing.

By the way, Reese does nothing. There's no room for her to intervene.

"Today's dinner is curry right? I'm going to help." (Reese)

She wanted to take initiative in improving her skill at cooking, and she was diligently working towards that. It was something she was trying on the advice of her sister.

Well, the new students look on her favorably, and the other students like her as well, so it's not a problem.

Emilia always talks politely and is well liked due to how she cares for her classmates and peers. Reus is strong, but never proud about it. Since he is humble and sincere, it's easy to socialize with him. Each opponent he defeats becomes his underling, and this has resulted in a strange clique forming. It somewhat ruins the image I have of school cliques from my past life.

Even though I am feared as the master of those two, I am not disliked since I don't do anything bad. Mark hasn't changed and is still friendly to me, thus I safely spend my school life in peace.

However, it is understandable that there are people who don't think well of me. They are primarily the nobles who are former students of Gregory.

When I walk through corridors, meeting and being glared by them, I can hear they mutter incompetent and subhuman if I strain my ear. The term 'subhuman' causes me so much trouble, as those two can't stand the phrase. I have to hold Reus and Emilia by the neck to prevent them from lashing out every time. Don't you realize that you will be attacked if I don't stop them?

However, I'm relieved that the nobles just glared at us without bumping at us. We are not hated in the eyes of public, but I can't help but feel like there is a plot developing.

The school feels normal on the surface, but there is a layer of unrest hidden underneath.

—

"... Don't you think the situation in school is kind of strange lately?" (Sirius)

I asked the headmaster about the situation of school today, while going back to the basics and bribing providing him with some pudding. The person himself ate the pudding and nodded satisfactorily.

"Yeah... although the cakes are always great, having pudding now and then is also nice. I'm glad I don't get tired of the taste." (Rodwell)

"Thank you very much. By the way, the answer to my question..." (Sirius)

"It is as you say. The one that are weird are the nobles... the former students of Gregory in particular. They've become strangely overt with their feelings lately." (Rodwell)

"Is it still so? It's troubling that they glare at me every time they walk by. All of these things happened three years ago, hasn't it been long enough?" (Sirius)

Their humiliation following the [Trade] concerning Reese three years ago is well known, but other than fighting Alstore, I am laying low. It was a natural consequence of the event in the labyrinth that Gregory would be labeled a criminal and flee, so is there any reason for me to be glared at?

"I don't think it is about what happened three years ago. More likely, this time is about Emilia-kun and Reus-kun. Those guys are people who look down on other races, and promote the superiority of the human one. It doesn't sit well with them that Emilia-kun and Reus-kun are regarded so highly. You, Sirius-kun, are ostracized because not only are you training those two, you are colorless." (Rodwell)

Many things happened in the past between the human race and beastkin, as expected lingering emotions about those things still exist. Though the kingdom of Elysion is publicly tolerant towards other races, plenty of nobles within are ruled by pride, and thus look at other races

with disdain, beastkin included.

“The impetus of this situation is probably the result of Reus defeated a bigshot known for his dislike of beastkin. They don’t like the idea of a beastkin being at the top, but since things will go poorly for them if they try anything, they can do nothing but glare. Good grief, even though such a thing like the gap between the human race and beastkin is such a trivial matter…” (Sirius)

There was cruel man in the past who advised the King to ban the beastkin from Elysion, as a method to unite the human race. The only difference between the humans and them is their appearance, so they could make up the loss of ability with time. Furthermore, there aren’t any countries that value beastkin such that they would be likely to protest.

Of course, Cardeas wasn’t going allow such a thing. He investigated these injustices, and banished the perpetrators to the farthest reaches of the territories. He may act shamefully around his children, but that doesn’t mean he isn’t an excellent king. Unfortunately for him, I can’t see him as anything but a doting parent.

It might look like discrimination against beastkin has decreased, but it won’t ever truly disappear. Gregory’s fingerprints are all over that little discriminatory group.

“That is because it’s easy to recognize Gregory among the group who discriminate against beastkin. Such man chose his students himself. He gathered those who naturally hate the beastkin, and there are a lot of Gregory’s students in those nobles group that glare at you.” (Rodwell)

“I see. I don’t think they will make a move, but I’ll tell the siblings to be careful.” (Sirius)

“Indeed, please put up with it. In truth, those guys are just the start of my troubles. As soon as Gregory gone, other teachers had to succeed his position in that class, though reluctantly. Unfortunately, the students recently said they won’t accept things like taking lessons alongside beastkin, and they mean it.” (Rodwell)

How should I say this, they are very selfish kids. I want to tell them not

to enter the school if they don't want to diligently learn lessons, but there are various circumstances based on each person. It seems like interference may be inevitable, but for now it's best to stay away from the situation.

"Will it be better if this is reported to their parents?" (Sirius)

"It would be better to some degree, but for many, their hatred of beastkin is learned from their parents. It's disgusting, but it seems to be a situation where parents forced their beliefs unto their children." (Rodwell)

"... What a troublesome situation." (Sirius)

It's difficult to change a belief once it has taken root. This time though, I think the children can have their mindset shifted, since they are still young. The parents may already be bigoted, but the children don't have to be.

Though he couldn't have guessed my thoughts entirely, Rodwell seems to have guessed them to some extent. Upon seeing my expression, his shifted from troubled to triumphant, with an extremely confident demeanor.

"The truth is I am planning an event intended to change the belief of such students. It would be a drastic change, but..." (Rodwell)

He doesn't fully explain, but he was clearly very confident in his methods. His speech, conduct, and appearance give an impression of being gentle, but Rodwell is also cold blooded. This was clearly demonstrated when he wanted to deal with 'Dragon's Fresh Blood' by himself as retribution. If he is taking, as he said, drastic measures, this must truly be an important situation.

"Which reminds me, why does Gregory treat beastkin and I... no, colorless as his enemy?" (Sirius)

"I don't really want to talk about it, since it is personal... but you have the right to know after everything he has done to you. Gregory has hated beastkin since the beginning, but he only developed a hatred towards

colorless after his father was murdered by one" (Rodwell).

"Is it... a grudge? It's not that I don't understand him, but I don't think it's fair that he attacks another person just because they are similar to the one he hates." (Sirius)

"You're right. However, that is all I know. To tell you the truth, Gregory's location was confirmed several days ago. I got information that he is hiding in somewhat close to here, in a remote region." (Rodwell)

It isn't on any maps I'm aware of, but I do know the town. It's possibly to make the journey in a single day by carriage.

"Finally? It's not smart to leave him alone there, given how much blood he has on his hands." (Sirius)

"I know. This misconduct was all on my watch. I will finish it by my own hand." (Rodwell)

Although he smiles, he seems considerably angry, to the point where his magical power is stirring. It was his responsibility as headmaster, and he wanted to be the one to deliver justice to Gregory. As such, Rodwell decided to go to the hiding place himself.

"I have finished my preparations, and will be leaving for that location the day after tomorrow. I will be taking Magna-sensei with me, and we will be gone for one or two days. Actually, I have a request, Sirius-kun." (Rodwell)

"I'll do it if I can." (Sirius)

"It's nothing too difficult. Please make sweets that can last for few days. After that..." (Rodwell)

Is it sweets after all?

For now, I decided to give him a magic tool somewhat like a refrigerator. It has cake inside.

—

Once school was done for the day and we finished more commissions at Galgan Company, we went back to Diamond Cottage. There, we spent our time in the living room relaxing following a flavorful dinner.

Emilia was knitting, Reus and Reese were playing Reversi, and I was carving a magic formation on a Magic Stone.

I am carving grooves on the Magic Stone using a special stone, but the adjustment is difficult because the stone is so small. Furthermore, it has yet to work even when I manage to carve it successfully. I have attempted many times already, to no avail. Today also...

"... It hopeless. It's a failure." (Sirius)

The drawn magic formation is my original magic [Call], but I still failed. It is usable, but it has fatal defect. How many magic stones have I gone through now? I'm fairly well off, but after spending so much on these stones, my savings have considerably declined.

When I dropped my shoulders, my disciples stopped what they were doing and came near me.

"Please do not be discouraged, Sirius-sama. How about a drink for a change? (Emilia)

"Aah, please. Creating new magic formations is difficult after all." (Sirius)

"It's not just difficult! If were to succeed, your name would be carved in history." (Reese)

"It will be alright if it is Aniki! The [Impact] from the other day was awesome, what is Aniki engraving this time?" (Reus)

"It's [Call]. So far, only my words have been sent out, but if used correctly, your voice can reach me too." (Sirius)

"Really!?" (Emilia)

Emilia, was returning after grabbing fruit juice, exclaimed loudly. She placed the cup down without a sound, intensely staring at the magic stone that I held.

“Sirius-sama! With this, my voice can reach no matter where I am, right?

“Aa, aah… yes, it is. It is usable but there is defect…” (Sirius)

“Could you lend it if it’s not dangerous!?” (Emilia)

I instinctively handed her the magic stone, after seeing her excitement. She held the magic stone against her chest happily, and quickly dashed to her room after she heard the usage method.

By the way, the usage method is to just talk while pouring mana into the stone. If possible, I want to make it usable with the stone’s natural self-contained mana, without needing to constantly supply it with more. It would function similar to a cell phone. Anyway, the improvement is completed.

It is a defective product but as for testing it, they are happily grateful. I waited for her to reach her room, then I invoked [Call].

“Can you hear me, Emilia?” (Sirius)

[–? Ah, yes. I can hear you, Sirius-sama!] (Emilia)

“?” (Reus)

“Eh?” (Emilia)

“Say something immediately.” (Sirius)

[Yes, Sirius-sama! Today, sleeping together in your bed…] (Emilia)

Communication was cut off in the middle of her confession.

When I look to my side, Reus was tilting his head and Reese was blushing a bit. Well, in short, there’s that.

“Aniki, why am I hearing Nee-chan’s voice?” (Reus)

“Same? Nevertheless, Emilia is daring. But, is that what’s needed… I wonder?” (Reese)

“The truth is, I want to design a version where only the intended recipient can hear the transmission. The defect in this design is that anyone nearby can hear it as well.” (Sirius)

Right now it acts more as a speaker to transmit the voice to other locations. Though it can be useful depending on the situation, it is pointless at this moment.

We go ahead to Emilia's room since the communication was cut off, and I enter with Reese's permission...

"... I want it..." (Emilia)

Emilia was lying on the bed in a strange position, tired from mana exhaustion.

Since she let out her voice without discrimination just now, there's nothing strange about the mana's consumption. The effective range of the stone is only the garden, but even with that range, and despite her training to reduce mana consumption for other uses, Emilia was left with low mana.

It is still impractical for common use, as evidenced by the result in front of me. I understand the cause, but in my eyes it's just another failed prototype.

"It's alright, Emilia. Come on, make yourself comfortable." (Sirius)

"Auu... Sirius-samaa..." (Emilia)

I collected the magic stone, and rested her head on my lap as she woke up slightly. It's a reward for cooperating with the experiment.

Does she realize that her head is resting on my lap even with half-asleep eyes? Her tail is waving. ... Maybe I'll stay like this for a while.

"Emilia, that's nice. Sirius-san, please let me collaborate too." (Reese)

"Next is my turn, Aniki. I'm used to fainting!" (Reus)

"It's not a tool for fainting, you know." (Sirius)

Although the newly drawn magic formation is not good enough, we will continue doing things at our own pace, even today.

—

Two days passed following that. The headmaster and Magna-sensei left early in the morning. Officially, they are going to examine a new training ground; obviously the truth is being covered up, given the nature of the mission.

Nonetheless, there isn't much change in school since the students rarely interact with the headmaster.

As for our class, with Magna-sensei gone we have a substitute, but there aren't any other changes.

"Advanced level wind attribute magic is far more powerful than its' previous iterations. It can even change the tides of war..." (Teacher)

I absentmindedly stared at the teacher, who was lecturing on advanced level magic for each attribute, when I heard something out in the halls. It wasn't very loud, but I could still clearly hear multiple footsteps. I looked to my side, the siblings also sensed something as their ears and noses were twitching.

"Aniki... something is weird." (Reus)

"I think so too. There's an unfamiliar smell, but... it's a very unpleasant one." (Emilia)

"Do not forget that feeling, and if something happens, do not move immediately. Wait for your chance." (Sirius)

I intensify my hearing, and scan the school with [Search]... there were more reactions than normal, more people than normal. I sensed people running around not just in the classroom but also corridors, and battles in some classrooms.

A handful of reactions were getting closer to our classroom.

"Move!" (??)

The classrooms in this school have only one entrance. From that entrance, several men rushed into our classroom. The teacher who sensed the situation began chanting a spell, but...

"Too slow!" (??)

One of the men quickly closed in to the teacher's chest, and forcibly pressed a knife to his throat, thus sealing any movements. Even if one's specialty is in magic, nothing can be done if the chanting is blocked. The intruders are used to dealing with magician opponents.

The intruders are wearing adventurer clothing, and armed with knives and swords. First restricting the teacher, and then the befuddled students sitting in the frontmost rows, they made sure nobody could move freely. If any of the other students moved carelessly, the safety of everyone in the room was at risk.

This was a process I was well familiar with, I was right in assuming that they weren't regular adventurers. From their appearance and movement, I'd hazard a guess that they are hired mercenaries. Skilled mercenaries.

While it was quiet and everyone was still, another individual walked into the room, and stood at the teacher's podium. He was a good looking man, with extravagant clothing; not an adventurer, but a noble.

"I'd appreciate it if nobody moved. If you act untactfully, your sensei here will become nothing more than a corpse, and one of you will be next." (Noble)

On those words, the students who had begun to chant magic in resistance stopped and sat down once more, realizing the danger that they were in. At the same time, the intruders began dispersing throughout the classroom. There were six in total, counting the noble.

"Now, to those of you who don't yet understand what has happened, allow me to enlighten you. This school is currently occupied by our leader, Gregory-dono." (??)

Hearing Gregory's name, the students began muttering to themselves, discussing the occupation of the school. The noble was visibly irritated by the commotion, but before anything further could happen, Mark stood up in front of the class and spoke loud enough for everyone there to hear.

"Everyone, calm down. Sir, we can't help but make noise, since we know nothing of the situation. So, please, explain." (Mark)

“So, there’s a level-headed child among you all. However, I hate such children.” (Noble)

“I am honored to be called so by the intruders.” (Mark)

“Cheh. Anyway, other classrooms are similarly occupied like in this classroom. Stop your hopeless resistance and sit down.” (Noble)

The nobleman spat out his displeasure from the bottom of his heart and told Mark to sit down Instead Mark turned to face the noble. Giving your own opinion without flinching in such situation, as expected of noble’s pride.

“Stop joking! Do you think such thing like occupation of the school will be permitted!? It is treason against the country!” (Mark)

“This is revolution, not treason! When the occupation of school is over, the next will be the occupation of the castle. Yeah, the things done here are just the foothold for our noble cause.” (Noble)

It’s pointless.

Those eyes are blind to any truth but that which they already believe in. This noble believes he is fully righteous in his actions. It’s similar to someone being a religious fanatic, so devoted to their faith that they accept anything it says and reject any outside information. It’s troublesome having someone like that as an opponent.

The noble, who was drunk on his own belief, raised both of his hands and continued giving his speech as if he was proud about it.

“Gregory-dono rejects foolish beastkin and he proposed to make Elysion into a paradise for the human race. You guys get to be witness to this glorious undertaking. You should feel honored!” (Noble)

Listening the speech just now spoiled my mood.

Foolish beastkin? Paradise for the human race? This stupidity has gone too far. They are the foolish ones, no matter how you look at it. Something like removing the beastkin and making a paradise for the human race is impossible. It would fail immediately even if they tried.

Saying that he didn't like children, but the person himself is more of a child in all but age.

"I'll give you further instructions when the time comes. Sit down here quietly until then, and everything will be fine!" (Noble)

The noble looked around the classroom, then he sat on a chair and wiped away sweat with his sleeves. The teacher and students who became hostages were tied up and left on the floor, and they were observed by a mercenary.

Though I can't move freely, I still analyze the situation while confirming the enemy's position through [Search].

I had previously heard about this revolution from Zack of Galgan Company.

Revolution or no, I can't think of it as anything but selfishness, and I don't think they can gain control of the castle just by occupying the school.

If you think about it, aren't they holding the children of nobles as hostage?

Nevertheless, the risk is high to aim at school where there are a lot of students. In the current condition, the mercenaries are employed and the matter is proceeding well, but despite their age the students can use magic to a considerable degree. If someone on either side makes a mistake somewhere, this can easily devolve into a situation of violence.

Even so, launching this tactic... while the headmaster is absent? When I think about it, the information about Gregory hiding in neighboring town must be a lie.

It's good to aim when the strong person, the headmaster, is unavailable. It seems that this wasn't random choice, but a deliberate crime. Unlike the actions of the foolish nobles I've seen up to now, this has Gregory's influence all over it. I can't be careless.

So, what should I do when I gather enough information?

The noble in front of us doesn't seem to know anything useful... so should I make a move soon?

"Emilia, Reus." (Sirius)

I cover my mouth in such a way that my voice can only be heard by myself and those two, and they turn to look at me.

I use hand signals to designate their targets under the desk, and they touch their tails to me in confirmation.

Now... they said to stop with the pointless resistance, but they said nothing about resistance that isn't pointless, right?

I slowly stand up.

Chapter 46: Everything is for the Disciples

“Excuse me, do you have a moment?” (Sirius)

Everyone in the room turned to look my way when I said that. The noble sitting by the lectern looked at me as though I were nothing but a bother that he couldn’t be troubled with.

“What is it, bastard? I told you to sit down quietly.” (Noble)

“In truth, I have a stomach ache – a bad one. May I please go to use the restroom?” (Sirius)

“Don’t joke with me! Do you honestly think I would allow something like that in this situation? This is why children…” (Noble)

“Please, don’t tell me that! It’s really bad!” (Sirius)

I walked towards the noble while exclaiming such a thing, grasping my stomach like it were about to burst. The noble was caught off guard by my movement, shocked that I would do so in this situation; meanwhile the mercenaries started moving to intercept me.

“What is wrong with you kid!? Oi, capture him!” (Mercenary-1)

“Don’t make us repeat our words again; kids should just remain seated!” (Mercenary-2)

The mercenaries held their hands out to grab me and stop my movements, but I pretended to stumble slightly and evaded them. Using the opening behind them, I continued advancing towards the teacher’s lectern. The mercenaries tried to grab me again, but I pretended to stumble once more, nearly falling all the way forward.

I wouldn’t have fallen all the way normally, but I decided to take advantage of the forward momentum I had, and fell to the ground. Using that momentum, I rolled quickly a few times, stopping a short distance from the Noble.

“What are you guys doing!? Return him to his seat quickly!” (Noble)

“Cheh, ordering us around so arrogantly...” (Mercenary)

I pushed off of the ground to stand up slightly while the mercenaries clicked their tongues in annoyance. The whole class was watching my movements intently, trying to discern my intentions. Meanwhile, I grabbed the leg of a mercenary who made the mistake of coming too close...

“Aah, it’s fine. If this is the situation... right!” (Sirius)

I pulled his leg with all my strength. The mercenary used his arms and elbows to try and cushion his landing as he fell, but that left his guard down. Right after he hit the ground I pivoted and, with all my weight behind it, slammed my elbow into his stomach.

My attack left the mercenary unconscious and foaming at the mouth. That’s the first one.

“You b-bastard!” (Mercenary)

The nearby mercenary stood up and swung his sword down at me, but I avoided it by getting closer to his chest. Immediately after, I hit the bottom of his jaw with a palm heel strike. His brain rattled, disorienting him, and he sunk to the ground moaning incomprehensibly.

“B-bastard!? What about the hostages...” (Noble)

“Hostages? Are there any hostages?” (Sirius)

There were five mercenaries to begin with. I took out the two who were keeping certain people hostage. As for the remaining three? Well...

“Sirius-sama, it’s over.” (Emilia)

“I’m also done, Aniki.” (Reus)

The siblings had already succeeded in neutralizing them while I was preoccupied.

The noble was petrified at how quickly the situation had turned around, the same went for our classmates.

“So... the tables have turned. How long are you going to sit there looking

stupid?" (Sirius)

"H-how dare you... a-acting like you could get away with this..." (Noble)

"That's my line. You shouldn't talk, when you forcefully involved so many people in a stupid matter." (Sirius)

The tides of battle had finally turned against them. I noticed the noble making small movements towards the door, as though he would bolt. Of course, I had no intention to let him do that. I plunged into his chest and in one go, grabbed his arm and judo-threw him onto the floor. Though it may have been a little bit overkill, it gave our furious classmates a bit of satisfaction.

"Excellent, they are all defeated. Let's tie them immediately." (Sirius)

"I did it already, Aniki. But, I used a towel, which isn't very secure. Does anyone have rope?" (Reus)

"Aah... I have some! Because I planned to use it this afternoon." (Classmate)

Since a classmate offered some rope, we tightly bound and secured the intruders. By the time we finished releasing the other hostages, the remaining students had come to grips with the current situation. The intruders said something about a revolution as they entered, so there must be a leader somewhere organizing this.

I want the teacher to take responsibility as an adult and lead the class here, but he hasn't moved since he was first bound, even now that we've released him.

"Uu..aah..." (Teacher)

"Aniki, why is Sensei not moving?" (Reus)

"His consciousness... is there. However, going from how he is cramped up, he was probably poisoned." (Sirius)

"Sirius-sama, I found this on one of the mercenaries." (Emilia)

Emilia came back from checking on the status of the unconscious mercenaries, and she handed me a small container filled with needles. On

closer inspection, the needles were clearly coated with some sort of substance. The mercenaries probably pricked the teacher with this when they tied him up.

I checked Sensei by using [Scan]. His heart rate was normal, and there weren't any life threatening symptoms.

"If they are carrying something like this, they likely have an antidote as well." (Sirius)

"Understood. Maybe in this container?" (Emilia)

"Wait a second, Emilia. Leave the treatment to me." (Reese)

Reese was lacking in combat ability compared to the siblings, so she sat quietly while the mercenaries were being bound. She excels in medicinal application though, so she took the opportunity to speak up. She gave the medicine that Emilia previously had to the teacher, and then settled down to focus on using recovery magic.

Now that the teacher is in good hands, I have to do something about the current situation. Many were panicked or flustered after realizing the situation they were facing.

While I was thinking about calling out to everyone to calm them, Emilia stepped forward in my place.

"Please calm down, everyone. There's no point in making a fuss here." (Emilia)

"But what should we do? Where do we go?" (Classmate)

"Right now it's most important that we remain calm. Before we make any other decisions, we need to gather more information about the current situation." (Emilia)

"What Nee-chan said is right, everyone! We should obtain information by interrogating these guys." (Reus)

Reus followed up by standing on Emilia's side, with a carefree smile like always. The fact that Reus was the same no matter the situation calmed the entire class, and soon everyone had regained their composure.

“Those two are right, we are all safe. We should calm down before anything else.” (Classmate)

“Let’s interrogate the intruders, to find more information!” (Classmate)

It would’ve been troublesome if there the students panicked and caused an uproar, but just as the situation started to spin out of control, Emilia and Reus straightened them all out. As I stand there, admiring the siblings’ work, I notice them glance over at me questioningly. Even with results like these, they still turn to me for approval? I want to speak my congratulations but, given the current situation, I just smile. Even if I don’t say anything, they’ll understand. Emilia and Reus see my smile, and their faces light up.

A few minutes later, the mercenaries and noble were lined up in the front of class, ready for interrogation.

Out of nowhere, the school started to shake slightly. Feeling a sudden influx of strong magic power, I glance towards the window. Though slightly delayed, Emilia and a few other sharp students in the class picked up on the magic power too. However, glancing out the window revealed nothing out of the ordinary.

It’s just my perception, but I felt like the mana in the atmosphere was a lot thinner than normal. I couldn’t yet tell what, but something definitely happened. I was about to invoke [Search] to look for myself, but one of the girls in class shouted to us first.

“Hey everyone! Look outside, outside!” (Classmate)

This classroom faces the training ground, so even though there is a short distance between the two, it is visible. Indeed, looking at the training ground, every one of the students were surprised.

“Eh... Are those golems?” (Classmate)

“That’s not funny. Why are such things here!?” (Classmate)

“Look, there are children from other classes.” (Classmate)

Countless Rock Golems were spread across the field, each larger than

two fully grown adults.. Meanwhile, the students who failed to resist were made to walk in a row. It seemed that they were heading to the arena.

Nonetheless, the students were strangely obedient. There were more than just golems there; nobles and mercenaries too, but surely one or two would try to resist. Straining my eyes to get a better look, something on the students stood out.

"... Are those slave collars?" (Sirius)

"!? Sirius-sama... Perhaps..." (Emilia)

"Aniki, those students were all wearing slave collars. How dare they use them, and so many too!" (Reus)

There were about 100 students that could be seen there, just by rough estimation. Since the school has about 600 students, the number of students who got caught is a considerably large proportion.

Since the wearer's mana is drained by the collar even if they are not doing anything, the whole body gets heavy and they will feel weary. Preparing such costly things to this magnitude is highly indicative of the seriousness of their revolution.

The siblings, who wore such collars for almost a year in the past, looked at the students with sorrowful expressions.

"That's terrible..." (Emilia)

"...I'm not going to permit that." (Reus)

However, they are not oppressed existences any longer, and they've gained strength that would allow them to go toe-to-toe with most adults. The proof of this lies in their open anger at the situation; them of the past would only feel remorse and pity, knowing that they wouldn't be able to do anything.

As one might expect given these circumstances, I won't attack the revolutionaries as is. Instead, I stroke Reus and Emilia's heads to calm them down. At the same time, one of our classmates began addressing the class with a tense look on their face.

“W-well. This is not an ordinary case anymore. Should we inform the castle or town guards first?” (Classmate)

“That’s true. We couldn’t do anything against mercenaries before, let alone now with so many golems aiding them.” (Classmate)

“Let’s have everyone split off into small groups to try and escape out of the school grounds. We can bring back help!” (Classmate)

It’s a good choice, thinking of getting outside help. Furthermore, splitting into small groups provides a good balance of safety and stealth. That said, this is hardly a normal scenario. The revolutionaries planned the takeover of this school carefully, and systematically achieved their goal. Would they be careless enough to allow for such a thing?

While we discussing our actions outside, the tied up noble started cackling.

“Hahaha! Foolish damn kids. Do you think you can easily escape just like that?” (Noble)

“What the heck are you saying? If we all run away, one of us will...” (Classmate)

“Do you think we wouldn’t take countermeasures? You should look outside the wall!” (Noble)

I looked past the wall that surrounded the school, and I could see a faint barrier of light expanding towards the sky.

“What is that? Was there such a mechanism on the walls before?” (Classmate)

“You see that? That barrier is designed to prevent against an enemy invasion. Nobody gets in, nobody gets out. You’re trapped here!” (Noble)

“Look at that senpai over there!” (Classmate)

When I looked to where the girl pointed at, there was a student repeatedly firing [Flame Lance] at the wall. But, there wasn’t a single scratch on the wall. No matter how many times the student used [Flame Lance], the wall stayed undamaged. Eventually the student was attacked

by mercenaries and golems from behind. He resisted for a bit, using [Flame Lance] on the ground nearby, but grew exhausted with each cast until his eventual defeat. A slave collar was put on him, and the student was escorted away.

"So, the barrier is unyielding even with [Flame Lance], huh? However, could it really resist against the combined firepower of all of us?" (Classmate)

"... Stop it." (Teacher)

The teacher, who had only barely recovered and still couldn't move, stopped the students. Reese supported his shoulder as he stood up carefully and began moving towards a chair. He began to talk after confirming that he had everyone's attention.

"The headmaster made that barrier. Even we had a hard time breaking it, and it repaired itself mere moments after we did. It's probably impossible for you guys to break it in the first place." (Teacher)

"It's that strong, even as a prototype?" (Sirius)

"The defense is perfect. The problem is the amount of time required between usage; there is a defect where it can't be used for almost half a year because there is not enough mana in the atmosphere." (Teacher)

The strange sensation that I felt a moment ago was probably the barrier activating. I extended the radius of my [Search] outside the barrier, but it failed to return anything. The barrier is designed to defend against not only physical attacks, but magic too.

"How long the barrier can hold once it is activated?" (Sirius)

"... One day. To make things worse, not even the headmaster could stop it once it is in operation." (Teacher)

Everyone looked down because of teacher's words.

No matter how big the school it is, it's going to difficult to hide against infiltration tactics that use golems. While the students wallowed in their silence, grim faces all around, the noble and the mercenaries began to

laugh again.

“Do you understand the situation now? Release us immediately if you understood! If you do it now, I’ll attach the collar nicely, you know?” (Noble)

“You beastkin brat! I absolutely won’t forgive you!” (Mercenary)

“Release us immediately, you bastards!” (Mercenary)

While the intruders became rowdy again, thinking they were close to being released, I organized all the information I had collected up to this point in my head.

Their purpose is to banish all beastkin from the region, and turn Elysium into a so-called “paradise” for the human race.

To do that, they will remove the King who opposed the idea and work out new policies. However, they occupied the school before targeting the castle. Due to this, I already assumed that they were going to use students in the battle. Seeing their use of the slave collars just confirmed my suspicions.

It’s unlikely that they want to make the students fight, since the collars constantly drain mana and wear the users down. Instead, they probably intend to use the students as shields.

Put collars on as many children as possible while the shield surrounding the school is up. Once it drops, push forward using the children as a defensive wall and advance on to the castle. Especially with noble children as hostages, it will be hard for the castle to fight. If they do, they risk killing or otherwise harming the children, and the castle’s reputation will plummet. That said, it is impossible to resist an invasion of this scale without casualties on at least one side. If they retreat, their reputation drops as well. Either way, the castle is at a massive disadvantage.

It isn’t common sense, but it is an effective tactic. As someone who would grasp any method to succeed in my past life, a part of me can appreciate the thought and execution of their plan thus far.

But on the whole... I feel disgusted.

The ones forced to participate weren't adults. They were children.

You may call it glorification or a revolution, but it's nothing more than terrorism or a coup. I can't see this as anything other than foolish discrimination against beastkin.

There is one thing... I can do.

I need to get information before selecting the next course of action. I approached the noble we bound, grabbed him by the neck and violently lifted him up.

"Oi you. How many nobles and mercenaries are involved in this so-called revolution?" (Sirius)

"W-what, you bastard? Acting all arrogant suddenly... bu puee..!" (Noble)

Since he resisted and was being uncooperative, I struck him across the cheek with the back of my hand. His face flushed and a burning red mark on his cheek, the noble was silent out of shock.

"I'll ask you one more time. How many nobles and mercenaries are involved in this revolution?" (Sirius)

I thrust a knife to his neck and released a bit of mana-infused bloodlust towards him. The nobles breathing turned ragged, and he began sweating profusely.

"H-heee... w-what are you!?" (Noble)

"If you know nothing, say so. I'm done with you." (Sirius)

"A-alright! Stop, I'll tell you! Please, release me!" (Noble)

Although the frightened noble did talk in the end, he had very little useful information, as I expected. Admittedly, I didn't expect him to give up so much information after such a small threat.

From what I understood, Gregory was the head of the revolution, and it was about 30 people strong at it's core. He had no idea how many

mercenaries were hired to assist.

“There is one strong leader among the mercenaries. I don’t really know much else, that fellow is the one who gathered all of the other mercenaries together.” (Noble)

“...Good job. Take a break slowly.” (Sirius)

Since he continued struggling even as I was leaving him alone, I strangled his carotid artery and he passed out.

I asked the mercenaries as well, but they knew even less information. They seemed to have been lower on the ladder than the leader of the group, so they didn’t know much. All I could learn about the leader of the mercenaries was that despite all of his ability, he was still just a muscle-brain. Still, I learned nothing more of use from them, so they faced the same punishment as the noble.

Some of the classmates were pulled by series of events but they left it alone since this was the situation.

Finishing up the interrogation quickly, the disciples were waiting for my instruction side by side behind me.

“You guys... do you understand this?” (Sirius)

“Of course. I will not allow such thing.” (Emilia)

“I’m going to send those who brought the collars flying!” (Reus)

“I’ll do my best!” (Reese)

The disciples understood from my behavior what I was intending to do, and they agreed. I bent down to organize the weapons we collected from the mercenaries; a couple of swords and a handful of rusted knives. Nothing good. Unfortunately, our normal weapons were left back at Diamond Cottage.

Seeing our behaviour, our classmates became increasingly curious. That culminated in Mark and a few others approaching us to question our motives.

“Sirius-kun, are you by any chance...” (Mark)

“That’s right. If we can’t escape by fleeing, then I’ll fight the remaining intruders. I’ll manage it somehow.” (Sirius)

“What do you mean by that!? There are tons of golems, magic users, and even mercenaries out there! We don’t have anywhere near enough fighting experience to take them on, don’t you realize that!?” (Mark)

“I would indeed likely lose if I were to attack them directly. But there’s no real difference in war potential here. The most troublesome enemies here, golems…” (Sirius)

Those golems look very sturdy, but they can be easily destroyed by [Flame Lance]. Furthermore, it’s incredibly slow, so if you target their legs, they’ll go down for good in no time.

After explaining to the class about the golem’s weakness, vitality started to return to their eyes.

“I won’t stop you if you want to fight together. However, those who don’t want to fight or kill should stay behind. There is a very real possibility that you will die if you are careless, and you may not have the luxury of holding back against your opponents.” (Sirius)

“I will fight of course. I’m not going to sit here hesitating. I swear in the name of the Holtia household, I’ll show them what it means to be on the receiving end of my [Flame Lance].” (Mark)

“Me too! I’m not going to let those guys do whatever they want!” (Classmate)

“Even if it means risking my freedom… I’ll fight as well!” (Classmate)

Since there were people not suited for battle, it was decided that they would secure and hold the classroom with the teacher, who still couldn’t move. I’ll leave further instructions to the teacher.

Now, I want more people if possible but… it seemed the [Search]’s reaction was coming from the other side.

I looked towards the corridor, where the sound of footsteps were rapidly approaching. The other students tensed up, and started to prepare for a

fight, but I quickly told them that the ones coming our way were allies. The door slid open, and in came Reus' underlings.

"Are you alright, Aniki!?" (Reus' underlings)

"Ooh! Is it you guys? You guys are safe after all." (Reus)

"Some are injured, there are some who can't join us yet but we are safe." (Reus' underlings)

"Alright, I'm going to fight them now. Give me a hand." (Reus)

""""Understood!""" (Reus' underlings)

The classroom became cramped, but the student's morale was raised alongside the increase in people who could fight.

When I checked other places with [Search], there were still students who remained in each classroom. They are probably waiting for someone to come help, or trying to escape without being noticed by the intruders, since none of the groups are large enough to fight back. Many of the groups were moving towards the arena, despite their dismal odds at winning a fight. At least the hostages are unlikely to be harmed, even should they fail.

After grasping the location of the remaining students, I gathered my disciples and explained the flow of events from now on.

"Listen, gather several people from each classroom. The enemies are adults; both nobles and mercenaries. You are only to fight them, refrain from attacking the students of other classes. If it comes down to a contest of ability, it will pay to have all the assistance you can." (Sirius)

"Yes. Later, we can alter the plan if we can't attack from the front." (Emilia?)

"That's right. There are many key points where we can attack from, so gather every student just in case." (Sirius)

"Aniki, isn't it better for you to approach them?" (Reus)

"I think it would be easier for people to trust you given your achievements at the school." (Sirius)

People here may listen to my explanation, but at the end of the day, I'm just a vague existence backed by only rumors. In a pinch, it may be hard for them to truly trust me. On the other hand, the siblings are very popular throughout the school, and their achievements are widely known. The other students would likely have an easier time putting their trust in the siblings than me.

"Leaving Sirius-sama aside, will we be alright on our own?" (Emilia)

"Just consider this another type of training. Besides, I plan to move alone for the time being." (Sirius)

""""Ehh!?""" (Emilia/Reus/Reese)

The disciples were shocked by my words. My absence would make their task a lot harder, but I decided to do this back when I realized that the barrier was in play.

"I'm going to check the barrier. Perhaps, there might be a loophole in the design that I can exploit." (Sirius)

"Rather than Sirius-san going alone, wouldn't you be safer with others by your side" (Reese)

"It's best that you gather as many people as you can, and do it as fast as possible. If I leave with a lot of people, you won't have as many to support you, nor to defend if mercenaries or golems are sent. Especially if they get sent because I left with other students. Besides... are you saying that you're hopeless without me?" (Sirius)

'Are you hopeless without me?'. The disciples opened their eyes wide when they heard that.

That's right, it's embarrassing to rely on me forever. Unlike the situation in the labyrinth, you won't be killed should you fail here. This is much safer than fighting those bloodthirsty killers.

"You wanted strength in the first place so nobody could use you, not me, not adults, not nobles. This is a test, to see if you've progressed towards that end. It's pointless if you have to rely on me, right?" (Sirius)

“... Yes! I’m not going to rely on Sirius-sama and I want Sirius-sama to rely on me.” (Emilia)

“I want to stand tall with Aniki! I’ll do it!” (Reus)

When I think about it, the siblings always say they want to be helpful to me. They probably would have understood, even had I not provoked them.

“Emilia, Reus... can you do it?” (Sirius)

“”Yes.”” (Emilia/Reus)

“Reese too, please follow those two.” (Sirius)

“Please leave it to me!” (Reese)

Reese, who stood on the side, grasp her fist with determined face. Previously, Reese would become flustered when I would ask something of her, but her heart has grown strong following her reconciliation with her father.

After that, I passed around the information about the arena that I got from [Search], and I advised them on how to deal with the mercenaries and golems. Additionally, the battle this time will involve large groups of people, not just individuals. They should take care to fight correctly as a group, so I taught them a few basics.

Once I was done, I turned back to the disciples.

“I’m not familiar with that barrier. I’m not sure how long it might take me to do anything with it, so you should give up on the idea of me merging with you during the fight.” (Sirius)

“Sirius-sama, please do whatever you want to do. We’ll be fine, you’ll see.” (Emilia)

“That’s what I want to hear. But don’t overdo it, okay? Retreating if things get too dangerous is not being a coward. It’s being smart.” (Sirius)

“Leave it to me, Aniki!” (Reus)

I gently brushed my disciples’ head at the end, and Mark called out to me as I was exiting the class.

He should have heard our conversation since he was nearby, but I'll make it look like I'm running away if he comes to try and dissuade me. I thought this, but noticed that Mark had a refreshing smile on his face, as he extended his hand to me.

"Don't worry about them, I'll support them with all of my strength. You don't have to hold back." (Mark)

"Is that alright? Isn't there something about the so-called 'Noble Pride' that prevents you from following the servants of another?" (Sirius)

"Well... that's if only they are ordinary servants. However, those two are stronger than me and they have more battle experience. Besides, they are not servants in this place, but classmates. It would be shameful if I acted in any other way." (Mark)

"Is that so? Then, I'm sorry but I must leave this to you, Mark. Don't act rashly, please." (Sirius)

"That's my line. Despite knowing their strength, I don't know enough about yours. I'm not that concerned about your safety, but please be careful regardless." (Mark)

"Aah, thank you." (Sirius)

As we finished our handshake, Mark pushed my back and I stepped out of the classroom.

I felt a bit guilty.

—

My first destination is Diamond Cottage. Leaving Emilia aside, Reus can't fight seriously with that mercenaries' sword. I immediately met enemies after exiting the school building, so I shot [Magnum] at each magic formation being used as a catalyst for the golems. Then I ran away, knocking down mercenaries and nobles in my way with Taijutsu.

I continued towards the school dorms and exited out from the main road, but since Diamond Cottage and the dorms are a little distance away

from the school, those places are outside of the barrier. Even though I could see both structures, I couldn't proceed further.

However...

"No matter where you look up there, it's just empty sky huh." (Sirius)

From there, I invoked [Air Step] and flew up and over the topmost part of the barrier. As one would expect, the barrier does end up in the sky, so I got over it with little trouble.

It's called a barrier, but it would be useless against flying monsters. Well, this was just a prototype. I think I'll summarize my findings and write a report on the deficiencies of the prototype for the headmaster when we next meet.

Speaking of, I wonder what he will do when he returns to the school.

He left school due to sham intelligence, and the barrier that he personally invented was used as part of the invasion. The headmaster may not forgive himself after this.

But... as an elf who's lived for over four centuries, can you really be outdone this easily?

I may have nothing but images of him eating cake in my mind recently, but he is the kind of person who constantly strives towards his own improvement. He has gained so much experience, but didn't expect this situation at all?

Instead of using it as barrier, I wonder if he thought it would be used to trap someone inside. That said, he mentioned the potential for a dangerous situation two days ago, so perhaps we are all dancing in his palm.

Well, I thought of various things but hopefully it's not what I suspect. If that's the case, even we were deceived by him. I'll definitely hit him when he gets back, should that turn out to be the truth.

I arrived at Diamond Cottage and equipped my battle gear underneath the school robes. I took to the sky again carrying Reus' sword and

Emilia's knife, flying back over and inside the barrier.

I probably should have called for reinforcements from town or the castle since I was outside the barrier, but I decided against it. I don't think it will be necessary.

And, I don't plan to join my disciples immediately.

Because... I have decided that this situation is useful as experience for those three.

The labyrinth event was another example.

I stepped in at the last moment at that time, but it isn't good for me to always assist them in every situation. I have only one body, and I can't always protect them if I'm not nearby. Even I can only do so much.

For that reason, I want them to acquire experience and solve something independently from me, while they still can.

This may be rather harsh on them, but I have other matters to attend to. Hence, I must believe in my disciples.

Although this is bad for the other students, they should be fine if they work alongside my disciples. There's a saying that goes, 'If you love your children, send them out into the world', and this situation provides them various kinds of experience. Honestly, I want to fight side by side with them, but I don't want them to become spoiled by my assistance. I have to be firm and limit myself to watching over them for now.

... Of course, I'll intervene right away if it gets too dangerous.

—

When I returned to the school building, I immediately found my disciples.

They headed towards the arena, where the captured students were held. There were more than hundred students following them. They seemed to have succeeded in gathering the scattered students from each classroom.

Led by Reus, the golems and mercenaries that stood in their way were mowed down. Cheers erupted each time a golem was brought down by Reus or Emilia. It's natural that they gain trust from both underclassmen and upperclassmen after that display of skill. I'm happy they're showing considerable leadership aptitude.

—

The situation appeared to be alright for now so I'm going to do my job.

I took off the robes, readied my battle outfit, and took out my new mask. Reese never returned the mask I used when I rescued her. Even now, that mask is carefully stored away in her desk.

With my disguise complete, I invoked [Search] to look for golems and mercenaries hiding in other locations than the arena. They don't all stay in one location, they spread out to search for rogue students.

So my disciples can advance without fear of an ambush from behind, it's my job to deal with them completely. I'm not helping my disciples directly; so it's fine to help them like this, from the shadows. To help them with this training, I'll adjust the difficulty of the situation a bit.

[Search] revealed 30 enemies inside the arena...

And 40 outside.

I dashed towards the first group.

—

The first encounter was a bunch of mercenaries; they were garbage in more than one sense.

They had pinned down a female upperclassman, tearing off her robe.

They were garbage, plain and simple, so there was no need to go easy on them. I shot the first man twice with [Magnum], and bound the second with [String] before sending him flying. The female student, who was nearly raped, was extremely confused and very disoriented. I hit her vital point gently, knocking her out.

After that, I buried the men in holes I made in the ground using magic, filling the holes in up to their necks. I then took the female student back to our classroom to recover. Hopefully she would think of it as nothing but a bad dream.

The next targets I found were golems and some magicians, but they were already engaged in battle with some students.

Although the battle looked like a stalemate at first glance, further inspection showed the students nearly out of mana. The inevitable outcome, if I didn't interfere, was clear. For now, I crushed the golem by using my long distance form of [Impact], and then I proceeded to break the magician's arms and legs one by one.

I leave the remaining work to the students there.

After that, I continued my work, searching and exterminating threats in locations that the students can't see or aren't aware of.

I secretly dealt with those who were out of the way of the students, sometimes killing them with Reus' sword, and other times cutting their throats with Emilia's knife. For those that were clearly noticeable by the students, I just took up position on a rooftop and sniped them with [Magnum].

Of course, I killed them as well. Each enemy, a single shot to the head.

—

Right now, I am basically doing the same job that I did in previous life, taking care of people in secret.

It's a strange thing, that I can reincarnate and live a completely different life, but still do the same thing as I did before.

It's not like I enjoyed killing in my previous life. Back then, I separated my feelings from the actual killing; it was just a job. It's different now though; my disciples are involved.

Until they are strong enough to protect themselves, I'll dirty my hands as much as I feel necessary.

“Because I’m doing my best, you guys need to give your best too.” (Sirius)

I look at my disciples from afar, watching them lead the advance.

Then, I aim my finger at the next target.

“There now remain… twelve.” (Sirius)

Chapter 47: Counterattack Start

Reus is the second main character in World Teacher.

– Reus –

We immediately started moving after Aniki left the classroom.

Aniki told us that the Demidorion... in short Demi class, disposed of their enemies in a similar fashion as us. Thus it was decided that we would try and meet up with them at their classroom, where they had bunkered down.

Everyone else that had come with were on guard out in the hallways, keeping watch. We couldn't simply enter the class, as the door was locked from the inside. Instead, Nee-chan knocked on the door and called for the students inside.

"Pardon me, I am Emilia from Colorist class. Could you open the door please?" (Emilia)

"Emilia-san? Is it alright on the other side?" (Demi Student)

"The intruders also attacked on our side, but they were quickly apprehended, and a safe zone was secured. Now we've come to check on the situation here." (Emilia)

"Understood. We'll open up right away." (Demi Student)

The other side of the door became noisy suddenly, as things were shuffled around. Did they use tables and chairs to lock the door instead of a key? If Aniki was here, he would say this action was a 'minus'. We could've been threatened to say those things, you shouldn't just open it up that easily. Of course, I won't point it out now, because it would be troublesome.

"Please come in, Emilia-san." (Demi Student)

"Thank you." (Emilia)

Since the Demi class consist of mostly commoners and few nobles, no

foolish nobles with strange eyes can be seen.

The door opened, and the one who greeted us was the Demi class representative. He thanked Nee-chan with a red face; is he falling in love with Nee-chan? Nee-chan is Aniki's, I'll send him flying if he tries anything.

While I entered the classroom glaring at the representative, I noticed multiple broken tables and chairs, and saw the collapsed mercenaries tied up on the floor. Besides that, there were several injured students. Some of them were just sitting there, gritting their teeth against the pain. There was a lack of healing magic users in this class.

"We somehow managed to subdue the intruders, but as you can see, our situation is not great." (Demi Class Rep)

"What are you guys going to do from now on?" (Emilia)

"We haven't decided yet. The whole class is split in two in that regard; we are stuck between finding a safe place to wait and bringing the fight to the intruders." (Demi Class Rep)

"Are there any students who can't or won't fight?" (Emilia)

"There's a few. Honestly, everyone is scared. We managed to defeat the intruders here, but our teacher is unconscious, and we have many injured." (Demi Class Rep)

As the representative said, the entire class had a gloomy atmosphere, even I could feel it. Though there were some students who cheered up slightly when they saw us, most of them are sitting with depressed expressions.

"Is the teacher alright? If it's okay with you, I can try to heal him with my magic." (Reese)

"I'm sorry to ask, but please do. We're worried about him, since our magic seems to have had no effect." (Demi Class Rep)

Reese-ane is widely known throughout school as an excellent healing magician. Entrusted with the job, Reese-ane ran to the teacher and began

examining his condition.

“This is... the same symptom that our Sensei had. Has anyone checked the mercenaries’ bag? They should have the antidote.” (Reese)

“O, ouh.” (Demi Student)

While several people from the class began interrogating the mercenaries, Reese-ane got to work healing the remaining injured students. Thanks to Aniki’s excellent training, we began to gain the Demi class’ confidence.

“We have a general idea of the situation now, thanks to interrogation in our class. Furthermore, all of the students in our class are safe, though our Sensei got poisoned in the same manner. It has left him unable to move for a while longer.” (Emilia)

“Is that so? It will be good if there’s senior but...” (Demi Class Rep)

“You guys are probably anxious for many reasons, but nothing will change if you sit here inside the classroom. We plan to gather other students and fight those nobles.” (Emilia)

“That’s absurd! There are adult mercenaries alongside those golems. We’re just children, there’s no way we can win.” (Demi Student)

Just like in our class, there were students who opposed the idea, but the fear was dispelled when Nee-chan smiled at them. Oi, class rep over there, don’t get fascinated!

“No, we can win. Intermediate level magic is sufficient for destroying the golems. Even the mercenaries can be beaten if we pick them off in small numbers.” (Emilia)

Nee-chan relayed the information she had learned from Aniki. Since he taught us to always speak with confidence when we wanted to earn someone’s trust, Nee-chan had a confident smile on the entire time she was talking. I want Aniki to see that she is more enthusiastic than anyone else here, she’s grown so much stronger.

“We have the advantage in number. There’s no need to show mercy or

fight fairly against enemies who use such despicable tactics against us, so we will group up and beat them without reserve. Instead of just hiding and waiting for someone to help us, since we can beat them with our own hands, shouldn't we try?" (Emilia)

"Is it... possible?" (Demi Student)

"Please look out into the corridor. As you can see, there are students not just from our class, but from all over. We can win." (Emilia)

"It's true! Let's do it! Our number will get bigger, right?" (Demi Student)

"I'll do it! I'm going to protect Emilia-san!" (Demi Class Rep)

"Thank you very much, but I belong only to Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"... Yes. No, it's still too early to give up!" (Demi Class Rep)

Even though the representative was remarkably depressed by her denial, he regained his composure back almost instantly. He's tenacious, but Nee-chan is an insurmountable wall. There's no space for him in her eyes, not even the size of an atom.

Anyway, the Demi class seemed to be willing to help thanks to Nee-chan's speech. I'm not going to lose to her.

"I will lead the fight of course. No matter how many golems and mercenaries come, I'm going to send them all flying!" (Reus)

"Ooh! Aniki is motivated!" (Reus' underlings)

"We will follow!" (Demi Students)

My friends from this class are also in high spirits and eager to fight.

In the end, 60% of Demi class joined us. The students who couldn't fight were instructed to go to our class with the teacher who couldn't move. We increased our number, and headed to the next classroom.

—

After that, we continued assembling our friends.

There was a classroom where nobles and commoners were quarrelling, but we calmed them down after we entered their classroom. We released the students who were hiding or occupied by mercenaries, and continued increasing the number of our allies.

Since the most arrogant or rambunctious students charged at the enemies before we came and thus weren't inside the school anymore, we had little trouble in general.

After completing our rounds of the school... there were more than 100 of us. We stopped right outside the school to distribute the weapons we confiscated, and prepare for our assault.

"I wonder if we have enough people?" (Emilia)

"It's enough, Nee-san. We have more than the enemies that Aniki told us about." (Reus)

Aniki said there were around forty enemies in the arena where the students who got caught gathered. That number was doubled when you counted the golems, but we still surpassed their numbers.

Aniki also said that Gregory was here. We barely talked with him, but he was a detestable guy who has done terrible things to us since we came to this place. I want to slice him entirely by my hand but...

"If I have my sword..." (Reus)

With that sword, I could chip the blade, no matter how many golems I slice. It's easy to infuse the blade with my mana too.

There's no problem with fighting, since I train with Aniki using only my fists nearly every day. I'm also grateful to have a sword to begin with. Yet I can't be satisfied using such a brittle sword; it would break in a single swing if I tried to use any of the techniques I learned from that Jiichan. Those techniques are not kind on most swords.

"It can't be helped, let's just work hard. We'll advance mainly by using magic." (Emilia)

"Understood." (Reus)

I'll still use the sword against the mercenaries, but I'll have to resort to my fists when I fight a golem.

While I adjust to the feel of the sword, some upperclassmen approach Nee-san.

"Preparation is done, Emilia. We can leave anytime." (Senior Student)

"Thank you very much. Leaving that aside, is it alright for me to lead?" (Emilia)

"I don't mind. You guys are the ones who organized this group, and this way we can focus our efforts on fighting." (Senior Student)

"That's right. As a senior, I'm going to scare the hell out of the intruders on the frontlines." (Senior Student)

"Understood. Though I'm inexperienced, I'll work hard. Nevertheless, let me explain once again." (Emilia)

Although they were upperclassmen, Nee-chan was somewhat becoming friends with them.

On a related note, those who weren't willing to fight were sent back to our class to defend themselves. Without having to worry about them, it was easy for Nee-chan to make decisions as a leader. Well, Nee-chan was already leading us back in our hometown, but I think that now she is qualified enough for the position to be official. She's learned a lot from watching Aniki, and gives off the same feeling when she speaks. Is this that 'charisma' that Aniki was talking about?

Nee-chan gathered the attention of everyone who would be fighting, and went through the instructions once more.

"... That is all. Our enemies are all strong, but we are much stronger. Let's all return home safely." (Emilia)

—

And then, Nee-chan raised her hand grandly and pointed out at the arena.

“Charge!” (Emilia)

“““Ooooo—!””” (Everyone)

Following behind the strongest fighters, comprised mostly of seniors, we all ran towards the arena.

Our number and volume made us stand out to the nobles and mercenaries who were on lookout, and the two combined frightened them. They ordered the golems nearby to attack us, and began to run away.

“Ha! [Flame Knuckle]!” (Reus)

My flaming fist hit the magic formation on a golem’s chest and it crumbled to pieces. On my side, three upperclassmen disturbed the golem, caught it off guard and destroyed the magic formation with blunt weapons.

The golems we were fighting were identical to those in the labyrinth, and thus have the same weakness. If you destroy the magic formation, they will instantly crumble. It’s impractical to use physical weapons because the golems are so sturdy, but magic works fine. In order to maintain the magic that was prepared before the fight, I continued my advance, jumping into the middle of a horde of enemies.

“Reus-kun, we were told not to use magic too much to preserve our mana; will you be okay? (Mark)

“There’s no problem. This much is normal for me, and the mana consumption is much lower than you’d think from how it looks.” (Reus)

Mark looked worried still despite my words, but this is nothing but light training compared to my bouts with Aniki. Besides, Aniki said if I showily defeat the enemies, it will raise everyone’s morale.

No matter how many battles I fought, I kept defeating enemies with all my strength. Even if I act violently, nobody would complain since I’m on the frontlines. My flashy victories continued raising morale, and even Nee-chan smiled and nodded at my actions.

“Well done, Reus. How’s your condition?” (Emilia)

“I’m at peak condition. My warm-up is finished too, so this is the perfect opportunity to go all out.” (Reus)

The condition of my body is perfect and there’s enough remaining mana. Above all, I’m brimming with motivation right now.

Aniki believed in us and sent us out. I don’t have anything to say towards that trust.

The failure I experienced in the labyrinth won’t happen again. That said, I get excited easily when I feel strong in a fight. In order to avoid making a mistake because of that, I’ve decided to limit myself until we have better control over the situation.

After decided this, we halted our advance to make our final preparations outside the arena.

“We have arrived. Well then, what are we going to do from now on?” (Senior Student)

“Since we are equal in number as the enemies inside, wouldn’t it be best to attack from somewhere other than the front?” (Senior Student)

What the upperclassman said was right, since the enemies were waiting in the arena, I think they prepared one or two traps. We discussed possible alternatives, but Nee-chan just remained silent and looked at the arena.

“It will take too long if we discuss like this. If we don’t decide soon, the enemies that spread out from the arena might be called back in.” (Emilia)

“It can’t be helped feeling hesitation here, so let’s have the leader make the decision.” (Senior Student)

“You’re right, so how is it going to be, Emilia? We would like to hear your opinion.” (Senior Student)

Nee-chan, who already made a decision, answered with a single word.

“Attack.” (Emilia)

—

As we moved towards the center of the arena and got a good look around, the other students couldn't hide their unsettled looks.

All around us, seated in spectator seats, were the captured students. They looked at us quietly, restricted by the slave collars, and could only show sorrow in their eyes.

Signs of battle in the ring still remained. When I turned to look at the corner, I could see the students who attacked earlier defeated, and having collars put on them.

"What massive crowd. Reese-ane, how many do you think got caught?" (Reus)

"Maybe... about two hundred." (Reese)

"Why are you guys so calm?" (Senior Student)

The upperclassman asked us with an incredulous look on his face, but I can't help my reaction. After all, I've experienced life as a slave before. As for Reese-ane, I think she is alright because she's had various experiences since meeting Aniki.

Nearby, in the center of the ring, a magic formation on the ground activated and golems started appearing. They numbered around thirty, slightly fewer than us.

"Welcome, brave, reckless boys and girls." (??)

As I was preparing for battle, a loud voice boomed across the arena.

I turned towards the origin of the voice, and saw a fat bearded Ossan sitting on a splendid chair. 'Wearing expensive precious metals and considerably fat', I think that's what Aniki said about the man. To his side, stands our enemy, Gregory.

"Reese-ane. I know who is Gregory but who's that self-important looking guy?" (Reus)

“Golia Advend. Ane-sama told me that he is a prominent wealthy man in Elysion. I was wondering where the resources for all of these collars came from... it isn’t strange if it’s from that guy.” (Reese)

Among the nobles who discriminates against beastkin, he seemed to be the one who had the argument with Reese-ane’s father. However, he was beaten black and blue at that time.

“What trifling matters could you have to talk about? You guys are just entertainment for us, so be sure to fight soon.” (Golia)

I intend to fight even if you don’t say anything, but why do you have an arrogant look on your face..

“What a detestable person.” (Reese)

“Reese-ane, why do you say that he’s detestable?” (Reus)

“Golia is the one who puts the captured students on display. He’s likely having them there to demoralize any students who might think of rebelling.” (Reese)

Reese-ane analyzed that each time help would come in the form of rebellious students, the capture ones would get their hopes up. However, with each beatdown, their hopes were dashed. That’s why, the audience seemed sorrowful.

“They were able to prepare such indirect measures, huh. Don’t be careless, Reus.” (Reese)

“Understood! Before that, I have to finish Nee-chan’s task.” (Reus)

Before coming to the arena, Nee-chan asked me to buy some time while getting more information. After confirming the spectator stands in a glance, I spoke to Golia.

“Say, Gorya-san. Even though I intend to fight, why are you doing such thing?” (Reus)

“It’s not Gorya, it’s Golia! Don’t you dare refer to me in that way; I am the leader of this glorious revolution! We will overthrow the foolish king that tolerates beastkin!” (Golia)

“Though there’s basically no differences between us in appearance, you still hate us that much? I like human race, you know? In particular, Aniki and Reese-ane... and Dee-aniki too!” (Reus)

“Saying that you like the human race!? Disgusting! I don’t want to even be thought of by disgusting beastkin like yourselves, let alone liked!” (Golia)

I don’t like you guys in particular.

I was like him in the past though.

Back when Nee-chan and I were slaves, we developed a deep hatred for the human race due to our captor and tormentor. But after meeting Aniki, and Dee-san, and being raised by Erina-san, I realized that not all humans were like our captor. Despite being way older than me, he didn’t understand that. Is he really an adult? Compared to this person, Aniki is much more splendid.

“They look and smell disgusting, acting all innocent while invading our cities and homes. They multiply in large numbers. If things were left as is, we would be taken over by the beastkin! So instead, I’ll purge all beastkin and subhumans from our cities, and turn them into paradise for select humans!” (Golia)

“There’s no need for a single drop of subhuman blood to exist in our paradise! Beastkin, subhumans, incompetents! Every single one without exception... we will eradicate them!” (Gregory)

I heard from Aniki that the source of Gregory’s hatred was his father’s murder by beastkin and colorless. I can understand the pain of losing family, but I wouldn’t want to exterminate anyone. Though, in my case the culprits were monsters.

“You guys are very childish. Are you really adults?” (Reus)

“Shut up! Throw away your weapons and surrender. Otherwise, I’ll use the collars to kill the students on the sidelines!” (Gregory)

He ordered us with half bloodshot eyes. If the owners of a collar commands it, it is possible to kill the wearer. A lot of slave collars come

with that function installed. I've seen first hand the effect it can have.

My friends were upset about Gregory saying that he would kill the hostages and the students who sat on the stands made a clamor at the same time.

However, the one that stopped Gregory's recklessness was Golia.

"Please hold on, Gregory-dono. Killing the hostages will hinder our plan, don't you think?" (Golia)

"... I'm sorry. I forgot in that moment, I was too focused on retorting to that subhuman." (Gregory)

"Get a grip. Goodness. Anyways, the owner of the collars is me, so you have no authority here." (Golia)

It was a small conversation that normally should've only been heard by those two.

However, Aniki taught me that boost improves your hearing among other things. With that information in hand...

"Dorashaaaa–!" (Reus)

I pulled out my sword without a moment's delay, and used [Flame Knuckle] on the nearby golems.

This time I went all out with my attack, and blew away not just a part of a golem, but the whole thing. It was a good opening to the fight.

"Let's go! Chargeee!" (Reus)

With my loud voice as a signal, the companions who stayed behind my back rushed in alongside me. The number of golems gradually decreased as our number of assaults exceeded theirs.

And then, when there were ten golems remaining, the magic formation on the ground spawned fresh golems. It supplemented golems based on how many we destroyed.

Somewhere in the arena there were earth magicians hiding, summoning more golems. If I don't cut off the origin, the golems will be continue to

come until the magicians are all out of mana.

"To suddenly attack, what an unruly subhuman." (Golia)

"I wonder, how long do you think you'll enjoy this?" (Reus)

Goria and Gregory laughed while looking at the students who had hard time dealing with respawned golems. The mercenaries and magicians who were at the stands were only looking at us without doing anything. Looking at them now, I can see they instantly surprised.

I smashed the tenth golem, and just as the third wave of golems was coming... the situation changed.

"The golem's magician is over there!" (Student)

"Aim at them! Use magic!" (Student)

"Don't hit the students with the collar!" (Student)

Sneaking around the spectator stands, some of the students managed to located the magicians who were summoning the golems.

Mark's [Flame Lance] blew one magician away from the stands, and some upperclassmen subdued and bound a few more. Thereafter, the speed of the golem summoning was greatly decreased, and we were clearing the waves faster than earlier.

Gregory and Golia were grinding their teeth, obviously displeased with how the situation was turning out. Golia pushed his hand forward and began concentrating mana.

"Damn, what a troublesome bunch. If it come to this, I'll order the spectating students to capture the resistance..." (Golia)

"Like I'm going to let you do it." (??)

"Wha!? When did you bastard... guhoo!?" (Golia)

While he was concentrating, Nee-san used wind magic to jump down from the roof and quietly land behind him. She used the needle that the teachers were poisoned with and pierced him in the neck, and he fell over unconscious.

Our strategy this time was to divide ourselves into two groups, one to cause a distraction, and another to seek out the earth magicians. Once we knew who controlled the collars, Nee-san would come in and attack them from behind.

That was my task, the purpose of my diversion. I was in charge of finding out who controlled the collars. I was initially thinking of a clever method, but the opponents let it slip carelessly. It was convenient for me.

"You bastards are behind this!? You're the servants of the incompetent one! I beg of you, flame—..." (Gregory)

"Sirius-sama is not incompetent! [Air Shot]" (Emilia)

Nee-chan's chantless magic hit directly at Gregory's stomach right as he began chanting. She was probably being considerate and sparing him from more injury, but that still had to hurt. I feel only sympathy for Gregory right now.

"Now, let's interrogate them later to get the key for the collars...!?" (Reus)

I thought we were done with this, but Nee-chan felt something strange. She looked up and grabbed Golia's collar at the same time, and she leaped towards us with all her might.

At that instant, the spot where Nee-chan stood was stabbed with knife and a small tch sound could be heard. Skillfully manipulating wind magic to land in front of us, Nee-chan turned and stared at the spot she was at before alarmed.

"...You, girl, have considerably sharp perception." (??)

"Yes, it's dangerous place after all." (Emilia)

A man with a large, muscular build appeared from the noble's stands.

It's not quite to the extent of that Jiichan, but he definitely honed his body with that sword of his. It was obvious from his attire that he was a mercenary, but given his skill and the aura he gave off, he was probably the leader of the group.

I understood just from looking at a distance, he was strong. Very strong. I felt the same pressure that I felt fighting the 'Dragon's Fresh Blood' group. Our advance stops here.

"Come out, you guys! Time to work!" (Mercenary Leader)

Mercenaries who were hidden in the depths appeared and started clashing with our group. There were only twenty or so, but we had a number of injured.

The last few golems were nearly knocked down, so our advantage shouldn't change, but...

"The golems are appearing again! Brace yourself!" (Reus)

"Hadn't it stopped a while ago? Damn, their number is increasing!" (Student)

There were more earth magicians among this new group of mercenaries, and they summoned even more golems than previously. Furthermore, these golems were much sturdier than the last bunch, and a good deal stronger.

"Don't assume we are on the same level as those nobles. Our skills have been honed in life or death battles!" (Mercenary Magician)

"If that's the case, let's aim at those magicians. [Flame Lance]" (Mark)

Although Mark threw [Flame Lance] at one of the magicians that made the golems, that man easily evaded while still casting magic.

"It's pointless to use magic!" (Hald)

When Hald was about to slice a mercenary directly, another mercenary jumped in to interfere. Perhaps, he knew that Hald was injured.

This new group of mercenaries used good tactics, cooperated well, and could cast while moving. There's no doubt that they are the underlings of the man who appeared before. They're on a whole different level from the previous mercenaries.

Although we had the advantage in number, with the situation as is, it wouldn't be long before the students would begin to tire. We would be in

a lot of trouble then.

Should we support them immediately or...

"...Nee-chan, I leave everyone to you. I'll deal with these guys." (Reus)

"Stop it. You should fight together with another person." (Emilia)

"But everyone is having hard time and it would be bad if nobody kept an eye on this Golia person, right?" (Reus)

That man holds the authority to kill or harm every student equipped with the slave collars. We cannot return him to the enemies. Nee-chan is best suited for this role, because she specializes in long range magic, so she can support the other students while keeping Golia down.

"Leave it to me, Nee-chan. It will be alright, the enemies aren't Aniki or Lior-Jiichan." (Reus)

I turned to face the leader, who was heading here with his sword drawn.

I'm going to defeat him, I'll win this time. The failure in the labyrinth rings clearly in my mind, and I won't allow that situation to repeat.

I absolutely... must win.

"... Understood. You must succeed, and have Sirius-sama praise you." (Emilia)

"Yeah! If that's the case, I'll be praised even more than Nee-chan, right?" (Reus)

"I wouldn't say that, since I'm the leader here, everyone thinks my contribution is greater." (Emilia)

"Stop it, both of you." (Reese)

It's dangerous, it's dangerous. If Reese-ane didn't stop us, we would be quarrelling. As expected, Reese-ane is indispensable for us.

"Reus, you're injured. Here." (Reese)

"Thank you, Reese-ane." (Reus)

"Good luck." (Reese)

“Ouu!” (Reus)

After Reese-ane healed my injuries, I stepped forward to confront the man. He was looking for a one versus one fight, as he patiently waited for me, standing with his sword out. He was ready for me to attack.

“Here I come!” (Reus)

I took a quick step. First, let’s try to cut him down with my sword.

The leader took it head on with his sword, but my strike was stronger than he anticipated, and he was forced back slightly. I was going to continue applying pressure, but I heard my sword make unpleasant noises, so I kicked at him and reluctantly retreated back a few paces.

Damn it. I expected it, but his sword is much better than my own. Mine will definitely break if we keep exchanging blows..

I intended to catch him off guard and hammer him down with [Flame Knuckle], but before I began my attack, the man rested his sword on his shoulder and let out a big laugh.

“Really, there’s such a guy in a school of all places. To drive even my employer into a hard place, I’m certainly not bored with this situation!” (Mercenary Leader)

“You won’t have the chance to be bored, I’ll crush you!” (Reus)

“That’s good, those words were filled with nothing but confidence in your strength. Will you tell me your name?” (Mercenary Leader)

“It’s courtesy to give your name before asking someone’s name, that’s what Aniki said.” (Reus)

“Is that so? I am the leader of the ‘Gigantes’ mercenary corp and my name is Dominique.” (Dominique)

“I am Aniki’s top disciple, Reus!” (Reus)

Taking a step forward again, I used another skill, [Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style – Break Thrust]. This skill isn’t designed for the sword I’m using, but that’s no problem. Dominique jumped into the air, evading it. Then, while he was trapped in the air, I leaped at him with [Flame

Knuckle].

“Haha! That’s great! That attack really had no hesitation at all, I like this more and more!” (Dominique)

While still in the air, he threw a knife at my face, with no regard for the incoming [Flame Knuckle], and I was forced to use the shockwave created to cancel the momentum of the knife. Without pausing, he threw another knife, and I blocked that with my sword as he safely landed back on the ground.

“Now it’s my turn!” (Dominique)

I received the assault from Dominique, but if I continued to block with this sword, it would snap and I would be cut. Therefore, I borrowed a technique I saw Aniki use frequently, and I slanted my sword to direct the momentum away from myself. It requires a bit of skill to use, but greatly reduces the stress on my blade. I use this technique many times against him before he tries to change up the pace of the battle again.

“Oh oh, the sword technique is good too! But, how about this!?” (Dominique)

I thought he would use the opportunity to retreat away from me and try another attack, but instead he reached into his armor and tossed a small bag my way.

I was about to cut it immediately, but I remembered my training with Aniki, so I squatted down and avoided it instead. After it sailed past me, I stood up once more and prepared to pursue him, but he was standing still. He clapped with an amazed look on his face.

“You avoided it well! In general, most guys will panic and cut it with their sword.” (Dominuq)

“Aniki warned me about things like that. He said that many things could be hidden in such a thing, like paralyzing powder or a poison. He also warned about knives being strapped somewhere on an opponent, or a needle-like projectile that can be shot from a device on a wrist.” (Reus)

“You have knowledge to that extent? Is that Aniki your Shishou or

something?" (Dominique)

"That's right. He is the person who taught me everything!" (Reus)

I understood after fighting him from a bit that he is far weaker compared to Aniki and Jiichan, and I think I might be stronger in terms of strength and swordsmanship. As evidence, I can fight on par with him using a sword of much lower quality.

But... it's still very difficult to fight him.

He retreats step by step when I get closer and if I try to pursuit him, he either throws knives or uses a petty trick like throwing that small pouch. It can't be helped given our age difference, but he has a lot more battle experience than me.

While I was troubled in deciding on how to attack him, Dominique sheathed his sword and held his hands up.

"Oi... you said you are Reus, right? Would you like to become our companion?" (Dominique)

"... What are you saying?" (Reus)

"It would be a waste to kill you when you have such talent at your age. Plus, since we live in the underworld, we aren't bothered by things like race. We even have many beastkin allies. There's no need to worry about discrimination because of who you are." (Dominique)

"Your employer plans to exterminate and ban all beastkin." (Reus)

"The reward for this mission is quite attractive. However, if I am to speak honestly, I have no sympathy for them. I plan to take the reward and run away as soon as the barrier comes down." (Dominique)

"Aren't you just a bad person after all? I don't want to be a companion of someone like that." (Reus)

"A bad person? Are you really saying that?" (Dominique)

Why did I feel annoyed somehow when he laughed at that? If it isn't true, why did you make it seem that way?

“Isn’t your Aniki someone from the same world as us?” (Dominique)

“Haa? Such a thing is impossible, I’ve never seen him do things like that. Don’t joke around with me.” (Reus)

“I can tell from how you predict my attacks. Your Aniki has taught you things that only someone who has lived in the underworld or experienced it first hand should know about. The fact that he knows the techniques well enough to teach their various intricacies all but confirms my suspicions. His life and my own are not that different.” (Dominique)

“Aniki… and you are similar?” (Reus)

Thinking on it, Aniki often went out on his own at night. When he would return, he would always smell of blood. And few years ago, I heard something from a thief that I interrogated about Aniki.

That his eyes are like a murderer. That there is a bloodlust there that is barely detectable, but can’t be hidden.

“There’s no doubt about it. While saying that you don’t want to be a companion of such a person, your Shishou is exactly that kind of man. Poor you, does it hurt much, knowing you’ve been betrayed by the one you trust most?” (Dominique)

“…It’s unrelated.” (Reus)

“Haa?” (Dominique)

“I say it’s unrelated! Whatever Aniki is, I…” (Reus)

That’s right. After finding out that I was a cursed child, he just laughed and said it was a trivial matter. When I lashed out and tried to escape, he was the one who hit me and made me see reality.

No matter how many matches I had with Jiichan, no matter how many times I thought I would die, nothing hurt like that punch from Aniki.

Hitting me to that extent, watching over Nee-chan and me… whoever he may have been, I…

“I have decided to follow him for the rest of my life! Everything else is a trivial matter I say!” (Reus)

"...Keh, what an outrageous brat. You didn't even waver." (Dominique)

"...Were you just acting?" (Reus)

"I'm half serious. I do regret this, because your skill is exceptional." (Dominique)

"It doesn't matter. I'm going to defeat you and Aniki will praise me." (Reus)

"That's impossible. It's true that your swordsmanship is better than mine, but I have trained in various ways of winning so that I may survive." (Dominique)

Dominique pulled something out of his armor again, and multiple flame spears appeared in the air, shooting towards the roof and exploding at a single point. The loud explosion reverberated across the arena, and the rest of the battles stopped as people were distracted. Soon though, the battles picked up again as people ignored the explosion.

In his hands were the remains of a magic stone. I saw Aniki use one before, so I recognized it at a glance. It was probably imbued with the power of [Flame Lance].

"...Why didn't you use that against me?" (Reus)

"It wasn't an attack, but a signal. Any mercenaries who heard it will immediately return here to support." (Dominique)

"What!?" (Reus)

"Although I probably waited longer than I should've, how will you respond when you face surprise attacks from random directions? Furthermore... Oi!" (Dominique)

"Yes!" (Mercenary)

Dominique called out to his friend, who threw another magic stone into the center of the arena.

As it touched the ground, a massive magic formation appeared and was activated. Out of it, another golem was summoned. Only this golem was vastly larger and stronger than the previous ones.

“This huge golem is added to the fight. Now, what are you going to do?” (Dominique)

This is bad, if such a golem attacks, won’t the morale of our allies drop? Furthermore, if the mercenaries show up too...

“Nee-chan! Do something about that golem...” (Reus)

“You should die! Foolish beastkin!” (Dominique)

“As Sirius-sama doesn’t allow it, I cannot die!” (Emilia)

“Emilia, the juniors on the right side are being pushed back!” (Reese)

This is impossible. Nee-chan and Reese-ane are too busy covering our allies and defending against Gregory’s men. Meanwhile, another massive golem has appeared. Our chances for victory are dismal.

“If that’s the case, I’ll defeat you first!” (Reus)

In order for me to quickly defeat him, I invoke [Boost] and charge at him. My speed was dramatically increased, so much so that he was visibly surprised, but he still managed to meet my sword head on. That must be a result of his battle instinct.

I was going to try a different move to avoid breaking the sword, but too late I realized how impatient I was with that last attack.

[Boost] as a skill not only enhances my speed, but also increases my strength. My current strength is many times what it was previously, which means no matter how light the attack, the stress will be too much for this sword to handle. Unable to bear the weight of my last attack, it finally broke.

“At such a time!” (Reus)

“You’re still a child after all. You don’t have enough experience on the battlefield.” (Dominique)

I was defenseless, yet Dominique didn’t try to take advantage of that and attack. Rather, with no sword and all of these opponents that I had to face, he seemed content with the situation as is.

Damn it, if I had my own sword, I could've easily defeated him and all of these golems. It wouldn't even get a scratch from the fight, no matter how many golems I had to go through. Not having a good sword is frustrating!

But... I can't give up!

If it comes to this, I'm going to strike with a full-power [Flame Knuckle]! I got burned a bit from the previous explosion but I can't mind it.

I began pouring mana into both hands, when at that moment...

Bam!

A loud noise echoed. There was a hole on the head of golem. That was where the magic formation on the golem was, so it crumbled to bits.

"Aaa? The golem is... with one blow?" (Dominique)

"This is..." (Reus)

More loud noises were heard, and each golem in turn had their heads crushed. In moments, before any of us realized, all of the golems were gone.

During this situation, something pierced in front of me, kicking up a storm of dust and debris.

As the dust cleared, right in front of me was...

"My...sword?" (Reus)

My partner, made by Grant-occhan, was there.

Defeated all of the golems instantly, and bringing my sword from Diamond Cottage... that could only be Aniki.

Both Nee-chan and I looked around, but couldn't find a trace of him. If Aniki were to hide seriously, we would never find him. Even training with him in the forest, we still couldn't find him, even when we could locate his scent.

Still... why is he hiding again?

If Aniki were to involve himself, we could easily defeat the mercenaries and golems, and completely flip the tables on the intruders.

[Do your best.] (Sirius)

I heard Aniki's voice in my head.

Is that so? He must be busy helping us in other ways, that's why he can't appear here to assist us.

He's leaving it up to me to defeat this guy.

Really, although the situation can change if it's him...

...How long will I act like a spoiled child in front of Aniki!?

I'm sorry for being miserable, Aniki.

And... thank you.

I will defeat this guy... please look forward to it.

I grasped my partner, pulling it out of the ground and calling out it's name.

"Aibo, we're going!"

—

Extra/Bonus 1

"I'm Aniki's best disciple, Reus!" (Reus)

"The best disciple is me!" (Emilia)

It wasn't heard by most of the arena, because of the ensuing chaos, but Emilia refused to back down from such a statement.

Extra/Bonus 2

"Isn't your Aniki someone from the same world as us?" (Dominique)

"Aah... it came out." (Sirius)

While peeking into battlefield, the main character breaks out in a sweat as his secret is out.

Chapter 48: One Step Away from the Top

– Reus –

The sword made by Grant-occhan, ‘Silver Fang’, is broader than normal sword. Generally speaking, it was made heavily and firmly.

Because Jiichan’s swordsmanship focuses on strength, there is no mistake that a normal sword will break. This is the only sword that I can let out my full strength, my important partner.

“Dorashaaaa–!” (Reus) (TLN: It’s a warcry)

I can unleash the power that I’ve been holding back with my partner that’s in my hand now.

My opponent, Dominique, blocked the attack with his sword while feeling shaken after watching the scene of the huge golems getting defeated but the difference was clear from the first blow, he was completely overpowered and got blown off.

But, the sensation from hitting was shallow. Maybe, he didn’t take the attack head on and dissipated the push force by pulling to the back.

“Oi oi, what’s with this just after changing your sword? I got it but that’s all there is to this.” (Dominique)

“Just now, I intended to cut you along with the sword.” (Reus)

“Oo, that’s scary. But is this alright? If you spend too much time, what would happen to your companions when the other mercenaries came?” (Dominique)

“… that’s a talk whether or not they are coming?” (Reus)

It’s just my intuition but I think the mercenaries from outside of the arena won’t be coming.

Because I can smell faint blood scent from my accomplice. Generally, one will not notice it but I understand it because I’m continuously being thrown off every day. That accomplice who has the scent is Aniki and he

is taking separate actions from us.

In short, I judged that maybe Aniki is taking separate actions and defeated the mercenaries outside of the arena. It would be dangerous if it's something different but if it is Aniki, that many (number of mercenaries) seems like a trivial matter (for him).

"Since there's no one in our surroundings, don't you think it's strange that not even single person has shown even to this very moment? Haven't they been defeated already?" (Reus)

"Cheh... that can't be. Is it your friend that defeated the golems just a while ago?" (Dominique)

"He's not a friend, he's my Aniki. I said it a while ago, he's the person who taught me everything." (Reus)

Besides, if Aniki became serious, this battle would have already ended. If the battle went bad, Aniki would be able to finish everything before we went to the arena but that didn't happened because he was letting us gain all the experience.

This doesn't ease me but he's attentively watching over us. It can't be helped (to say this) but I'm really proud being Aniki's disciple.

"But, he is a person who's not going to pull out his hand too the person I'm fighting with. Come at me without reservation like before!" (Reus)

Being supported by Aniki only happens when the situation becomes dangerous. Other than that, he is probably going to tell us to do whatever we like. Besides, I should stop relying on Aniki forever. My partner is in front of me and I'm going to end this now.

When I raised my sword and put up posture of [Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style – Strong Heaven], Dominique asked me question while smiled wryly.

"I barely feel this but are you also from the [Hard Break – One Hand Sword – Style School]?" (Dominique)

"That's right, so do you know it?" (Reus)

“There would probably be a few who don’t know about it. [Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style – School] is a sword style of the ‘Strongest Sword’ Lior. However… ‘Strongest Sword’ shouldn’t even have a single disciple, so are you related?” (Dominique)

“I was taught by that person, Lior-jiichan. Besides, my only master (Shishou) is Aniki.” (Reus)

“Saying that you were taught, who are you really?” (Dominique)

“I’m just an ordinary man from Silver Wolf tribe. You don’t have to know about it because you’ll be defeated by me.” (Reus)

“Cheh, your tone changed after having (that) sword. This is inevitable; I also have no choice but to make up my mind.” (Dominique)

When I thought Dominique was going to surrender, he took out a red pill from pouch on his chest and swallowed it. That medicine… isn’t it somewhat strange?

“Have you gotten damaged to the extent that makes you swallow medicine?” (Reus)

“Heh, this thing is not simple thing. This is a ‘Life Boost’ drug!” (Dominique) (TLN: Japanese name for that drug is Life Grinding Pill)

Life Boost?

Perhaps… is that what Erina-san drank? The effect seems to raise the strength of those who drink it to the limit but Aniki said there are severe after-effects after that.

During Erina’s time, Aniki seemed to adjust the effect and created a watered down version and yet that drug made Erina-san, who couldn’t even walk, to become well for a day.

But, on the hand, Erina-san was…

“I’m not very sure about the details but I heard it was scary after using this thing.” (Reus)

“That’s right. When I use this, I won’t be able to move for a month!” (Dominique)

The moment Dominique threw the pouch that contained the pill away, I thought his eyes were somehow becoming bloodshot and his muscles were rapidly bulging up. He brandished his greatsword, that supposed to be held by both hands, with (just) single hand and he was drooling while breathing roughly.

“On the other hand, even pain disappears and I can let out tremendous amount of strength!” (Dominique)

When I thought Dominique was squatting down or something, but he rushed at me to the extent that the ground was sinking in and swung his sword. I was able to cope with him enough until a while ago but...

“Fast!?” (Reus)

I wielded the sword at once to prevent it but I was completely overwhelmed and blown off to the rear. I rearranged my posture and landed but I almost let go the sword from the single blow because my hand became numb.

“Where did the strength you had just now go? Because I already did it to this extent, endure and show me more!” (Dominique)

“You don’t even have to say it!” (Reus)

I will lose if I defend (the attack)! Therefore, I jumped before he attacked but my entire assaults were prevented by his sword. Damn it! All of his abilities rose up because of that pill. I have a bit mana left... there’s no choice but to use it.

“[Boost]!” (Reus)

“Hahaha! That’s the spirit!” (Dominique)

I poured mana to my whole body for physical reinforcement and striked Dominique again. After that, we crashed our swords into each other many times but it seems that Dominique’s strength is higher compared to me even when I’m enhanced by [Boost].

Despite this, I was able to hold him thanks to the serious fight I had with Aniki and Jiichan.

Aniki is the type that attacks by using feints a lot and the pattern can't be grasped while Jiichan is the type that puts all of your strength in a blow that can bring certain death. Dominique's technique is lower and incomparable to those two, that's why I am somehow able to hold him off.

But, I will certainly lose if this fight is prolonged. During the time with Erina-san, the drug was adjusted and she lasted for a day but the original 'Life Boost' lasts for a half a day. Unlike Aniki's, my [Boost] isn't long lasting too that extent.

Did he not feel tired because of the drug? Dominique's momentum doesn't show any decline at all and it became a defensive fight for me.

"Hey! The [Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style School] would cry with you defending only!" (Dominique)

"It's unrelated!" (Reus)

"It's related you know! [Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style School] is an art that cut the enemies in a single blow without minding about defense!" (Dominique)

It's true that is such feeling of Jiichan sword art but I'm a bit different because I received techniques from Aniki too.

Besides... that way of fighting is already a talk in the past.

The Jiichan right now is re-evaluating himself after being defeated by Aniki. It doesn't change the fact that that sword technique emphasizes on defeating an enemy in a blow and you need to somewhat prepare to receive damage when using the sword art but I'm certainly evading and warding off (the attacks) and that's how I had become.

"I've been longing to see that 'Strongest Sword'! Obliterating a large crowd of monsters in single blow as the strongest! Even if you learn how to use a sword, shouldn't you realize that monstrous strength?" (Dominique)

"It's natural, right! But someday I will defeat Jiichan!" (Reus)

Although I desperately prevented the assault, Dominique continued swinging sword while talking smoothly and happily. If I lose focus even for instant, it seemed like I would lose [Boost].

“Saying that you’re going to defeat the strongest? Don’t say foolish things! No matter how much I put my effort or for how long I acquire strength, I’m still behind the strongest!” (Dominique)

“Even so, I!” (Reus)

“Don’t dream! Even if I strive to be the strongest, that’s the reality! No matter how genius you are, you won’t win!” (Dominique)

“What do you mean by genius?!” (Reus)

“That is what I said! There’s no way for you to surpass the strongest when you are driven to the corner with this amount of strength! How do you intend to beat that ‘monster’ when you can’t even win against me!?” (Dominique)

“Guaaa!?” (Reus)

I wasn’t able to ward off the last attack, I was blown off with full strength and hit the wall. I was hit with pain on my back because [Boost] wore off but Dominique only looked without chasing me while laughing.

“How’s that? That’s the reality. Admit it and this will become easy. No matter how much you struggle, you can’t win against the strongest.” (Dominique)

“...Strongest, you’re being persistent about strongest. Don’t decide on your own when you don’t know anything.” (Reus)

It’s alright, this is just scratch compared to the time in labyrinth. I can taste blood in my mouth but... I can still move. Standing up with the support of my sword, I glared at Dominique with the feeling of not going to lose.

“Besides, I don’t need to be the strongest. For that person... it’s enough to be number two.” (Reus)

“While you retort, is it that all? Well, it’s just impossible to defeat the

‘Strongest Sword’.” (Dominique)

“Wrong! The strongest is Aniki! I, I will defeat Lior-jiichan and... I will become the second (strongest)!”

It’s enough for me just to be right behind Aniki. It is fine to stand right behind him if I can support Aniki! Just for that, I will become stronger and I will defeat Lior-jiichan someday. I cannot be defeated by such guy.

I invoked [Boost] again with my remaining mana, I stepped on the ground and ran vigorously.

“I don’t understand anything that you’re saying!” (Dominique)

“Besides... I don’t want to be told to give up by a rotten person!” (Reus)

This guy is surely strong but if it’s Lior-jiichan, he ends this by slicing his body together with a sword. A guy who can’t do that is... weaker than Jiichan. Therefore, I can win. I focused my whole thoughts on my sword and raised it.

“[Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style – Strong Heaven]!” (Reus)

At start, I put everything on the basics of [Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style], that is [Strong Heaven] and strike Dominique’s sword. A loud noise of steel clashing reverberated... and my sword pushed back Dominique.

Raising up his sword, Dominique took two or three steps back to break it off, when I tried to pursuit him, at that moment, mercenaries abruptly intruded from the sides. The mercenary somehow seemed to be blown off by other students and since he was tumbling down, I reflexively jumped to avoid him.

While I failed to rearrange my posture, in front of Dominique was...

“Haha! That’s inevitable!” (Dominique)

It’s impossible to evade the incoming Dominique’s sword that approached in the air from the side. That’s why Jiichan told me how many times that it’s pointless to jump but Aniki was...Aniki?

Aniki was.. that’s it!

I focused the remaining mana to cast [Boost] on the feet at once, I made a scaffold with [Air Step] in the air, stepped on it and flew over Dominique. I cannot do it consecutively like Aniki but I can do it if it's just one time.

Dominique swung his sword at me who leaped overhead but I was already out of his range of attack by stepping aside. As Dominique looked up in utter surprise, at the same time when I met his eyes, I brandished my sword in the air and cut his right arm off.

"Wha-at!?" (Dominique)

"That's already a single blow!" (Reus)

I landed (on the ground) faster than Dominique's (amputated) arm and hit his flank with my sword's hilt. The [Boost] (effect) already wore off but with my one hit with full strength it shattered several bones and sent Dominique flying.

Dominique, who continued rolling on the ground while smashing many times, crashed into the wall of the arena and finally stopped. After looking at him for a while, that guy didn't move at all.

"I did it... right?" (Reus)

There's wounds all over my body and my physical strength and mana were near their limit but did I beat that fellow?

I think I was able to win... alone?

[Aah. Well done, Reus] (Sirius)

"... Aniki." (Rues)

So you were earnestly watching me.

I almost unintentionally cried because of tremendous joy and almost lost grip of my sword.

But the battle is not over yet. Although the situation had eased (a bit) because Aniki defeated the huge golems, there are still enemies in the arena.

I am tired but I can still swing my sword. Most of the enemies have been defeated so the battle will soon finish.

Let's finish the battle early so I'll have Aniki's praise firsthand.

"I'm going! I'll handle everything!" (Reus)

— Emilia —

When all the huge golems were defeated, Sirius-sama voice reverberated in my head.

[I'll entrust this to you Emilia. To support everyone.] (Sirius)

Aah... what a wonderful feeling.

My master (goshujin-sama) always watches over us, even now, when the situation is dangerous.

Being told and being relied upon by that person makes my heart really boil up.

But, it's not good to fight with giddy feelings. If I'm careless, I won't be able to do everything till the end like the time in the labyrinth. Such a disgrace is already too unpleasant to be accepted twice... I don't mind being embraced and sleep together with Sirius-sama no matter how many times.

When I look at Reese, she is full with motivation. Did she receive a message from Sirius-sama like me? For us, Sirius-sama's words become the best impetus. Of course, it would be better if Sirius-sama himself came (here).

"To laugh while in a battle! Are you kidding me!?" (??)

That's not good, that man, Gregory... I forgot about him.

We exchanged fire several times since while ago but should I say this is to be expected from a former teacher? His double attribute of fire and earth, shooting [Flame Lance] towards me while creating golems, he's using different magic attributes at the same time. He's just a common

criminal now but let's not be careless since he has fitting ability.

But... I've already seen everything of this person.

He mainly uses [Flame Lance] and it is surely strong but the shooting speed is slow and it has the ability to explode when it hits anything. To be brief, if I hit it by using [Air Shot], I can sufficiently intercept it because it will explode.

In the case of Sirius-sama, he will shoot out the moment that [Fire Lance] is invoked and when the flames are gathered, but there's a limit for me to shoot it down before [Fire Lance] shot.

In fact, he was angrily shooting [Flame Lance] even now but I patiently intercepted it. During that time, I supported the other students by shooting [Air Shot] at the golems.

"Then, how about this! Spear of Lance, [Flame Lance]! The personification of earth, become my power and protect me, [Rock Golem]!" (Gregory)

There were several [Flame Lance] materializing around Gregory and three golems spawned under his feet, he will attack me with both (lances and golems) at the same time. The result will not change even if the number is increased. I calmed down, concentrated and shot magic.

"[Air Shotgun]! Also take this, [Air Impact]' (Emilia)

All [Flame Lance]s were shot down by innumerable finely [Air Shot] which were dispersed by [Air Shotgun], and the moment when the golems were touched by head sized ball of wind, they were smashed by [Air Impact] in one go.

Both were arranged for me by Sirius-sama's magic and during the time of its debut, it was amazingly praised by Sirius-sama.

In the meantime, I threw the throwing knife that I took from the mercenaries but it only hit Gregory's arm. Yeah, it's necessary to practice more on knife throwing.

"You bastard! Crush her, golem!" (Gregory)

I had somehow managed to damage the opponent but there were two remaining golems. Since [Air Impact] has big mana consumption, I should find the magic formation and aim with [Air Shot] but I wasn't alone.

"Water, I ask you! [Aqua Pillar]!" (Reese)

The magic that Reese invoked from the rear let water gush from golem's feet go towards the sky. It is a magic to send (enemy) flying to the far off in the sky. Originally, it doesn't have the strength to elevate a rock golem but in the case of Reese, the water pressure is much stronger because of the water spirits. Plus, she can skilfully cast two (pillars) at the same time.

The golems, which were blown into the sky, couldn't endure the impact of the fall due to its own weight and crumbled into pieces. Occasionally, the magic formation (of the golem's) remain but those two (magic formations) seemed to be broken this time.

"You seem to be in high spirits, Emilia. Is it because Sirius-san is looking (at us) after all?" (Reese)

"Of course. I'm displaying my progress because I want to be pat a lot after this. I won't lose to Reus, you know." (Emilia)

"Huhu, I'm not going to lose too." (Reese)

There are a lot of things to do, supporting students by becoming Gregory's opponent and securing Golia nearby from getting snatched by the enemies. But there is no problem if I am together with Reese. We live and train together so our cooperation is perfect.

I fired [Air Shot] at the mercenaries attacking the students who lost their weapons, and Reese sliced the golems that appeared again by using [Aqua Cutter]. While protecting each other's back, Reese and I became Gregory's opponent and was continuously giving support to nearby students.

The progress of the battle is completely tilting (to our side), there are a few remaining mercenaries and magicians. My support seems to be no

longer necessary and I think it's a matter of time to gain control.

But, Reus seems to be pushed. Rues somehow appeared to be handling well against the fierce attacks from the enemy, who had peculiar atmosphere, it's not even strange anymore if he gets defeated. I probably should support him but the person himself desires (to fight alone), and he seems inversely angry if I help him. Therefore, I'm not going to help him but... you must absolutely survive. That is because we have decided to live and to continue supporting Sirius-sama.

When I reluctantly turn my sight towards Gregory and away from Reus, he was breathing heavily with pale face. That's the sign of mana exhaustion, I immediately understood it since I had it many times.

"Haa...Haa... it can't be. Why did my mana exhaust earlier?" (Gregory)

"It's the difference in performance. That's an inefficient way of fighting, you know." (Emilia)

If I say honestly, my aggregate amount of mana is not that high. I think mine is lower than Reese, whose being favored by spirits and Gregory as an adult. But my mana was exhausted many times and as I grew up, I got rid of the wasted magic by Sirius-sama's advice.

To put it simply, if the (mana) consumption of intermediate level magic, [Flame Lance] is twenty, the consumption of elementary level magic, [Air Shot] is five. And I reduced it down to two by training. Besides, Gregory also brought forth golems many times so the speed of of his (mana) consumption is totally different. The enemy was inevitably going to get exhausted earlier.

It is because we learned various things from Sirius-sama's training. In short, I understood a way of fighting more than you who is crossing legs with nobles. You should either shoot [Flame] that can't be intercepted or cast other magic.

"To be driven to a corner by a subhuman who follows the incompetent (Sirius). What a disgrace." (Gregory)

"Incompetent... please stop with the incompetent! Sirius-sama is not

incompetent!" (Emilia)

My patience almost reached its limit, really. Until when do you want to speak ill of Sirius-sama? If I compared you to that person who saved us and made us stronger, your worth is no more than pebble.

"Saying Sirius-san is incompetent, but you are such a fool. If you have time to hate Sirius-san and beastkin, why don't you properly train yourself?" (Reese)

"Hmmm, is that you, bastard? Although I recognized you (to be in my class), you transferred to the others class." (Gregory)

"You're not looking at me other than my household and who do you think wants to study under a person who tolerates bullying?" (Reese)

I am angry too but Reese seems considerably angry. Since she is being more sarcastic than normal.

"... But, I am really grateful to you just a bit. Thanks to you for dragging me into your class, I met Sirius-san and I became his disciple." (Reese)

"If meeting with Sirius-sama, don't you think that's somehow because you met me?" (Emilia)

"I think I wouldn't have become his disciple if not because of that too. I wanted to become his disciple because I was in that harsh time and... because the feelling to be in love with Sirius-san began to grow." (Reese)

Her face was a bit reddened but Reese who talked in satisfaction looked very cute.

But Sirius-sama is completely not shaken looking at such a cute Reese. Let's tempt Sirius-sama together with Reese next time.

"Cut it out! This revolution is to expel subhumans and incompetents! Bring such a conversation somewhere else!" (Gregory)

"This affair can't be said as revolution. Who on earth are you to discriminate, even against beastkin, who does nothing!?" (Reese)

"Silent! If there is no beastkin and incompetent... father wouldn't have died!" (Gregory)

“I understand your grief but if you want to hate, you should hate those criminals. To raise disturbance to this extent in order to reject (beastkin and incompetent) is overkill!” (Reese)

“What does a child understand!? No matter what anyone says, I will accomplish this revolution!” (Gregory)

I was thinking which (of us) is a child? I also feel irritated too, I considered to retort with a straight answer. It’s not good, it’s not good, I must calm down.

At that time, loud noise could be heard from the rear and when I turned to look, the mercenary who fought with Reus collapsed with his back on the wall.

It’s vital for Reus to be considerably tired but he raised his sword again and sliced the remaining golems. Aah, although he is injured, what is he going to do?

“Oh dear, it’s unreasonable (for him) to move a lot. Sorry Emilia, I’ll be going a bit to treat (him).” (Reese)

“Please, I will take care of that man.” (Emilia)

—

When I saw Reese running off to the location where Reus who has knocked down the third golem, Gregory seemed annoyed and was biting his teeth while seeing the mercenaries.

“Damn it... to be driven to the corner by a subhuman after saying proud things.” (Gregory)

“It is because the human race is not superior, and same goes to others too. We as a beastkin have the same appearance with humans with only small differences.” (Emilia)

“Don’t compare us with subhumans! This is not over yet, I’m still not done yet!” (Gregory)

While Gregory shouted, he aimed at us and fired off several

intermediate level magic. But since all of it have same attribute, I gave up the idea to intercept those and avoid it by jumping towards Golia's rear. That's weird, Gregory wasn't chanting at all.

"It's good for you to see this! For me, I only approve it to this extent!" (Gregory)

Those who appeared from the nobles' stand were the students that we disliked. The numbers of people are around ten but they seem to follow Gregory's order like normal since they are not wearing slave collars. Among them is the one who fought against Sirius-sama and Reus, Alstore.

They were probably treated as reserved war potential but... was this the evidence that he's been driven to the corner by using them as war potential? However, this is a slightly bad situation, isn't it? The progress of the battle was inclined towards us but this is a severe situation when their number increased by ten and because our side has been accumulating fatigue.

"Go for it, you guys! If you all hit at the same time, that subhuman won't be able to defend." (Gregory)

"Oi, where is your master!? (Make him) come out immediately in front of me!" (Alstore)

"Is she that subhuman after all? She appeared dignified despite being a commoner." (??)

"When it comes to subhumans, even we as the servants for nobles are enough!" (??)

I understood by looking from their eyes but other students don't have considerable reasons other than hating the beastkin. They don't have a deep hatred (against beastkin) like Gregory, they just want to expel (beastkin) because of their plain dislike. I'm not aware whether or not you guys were brainwashed but I want you guys to stop doing this thing. Is there no one seriously scolding them?

While I was thinking, each of them finished chanting and I held my

breath looking at numerous intermediate level magics appeared in the air. I can deal with four or five of them but it's seems to be impossible to deal with ten magics including Gregory's.

Sirius-sama—... No, I shouldn't depend on him! I don't want to be protected by Sirius-sama because I want to support that person. I can't give up by this level of difficulty.

First, let them convulse entirely on me so that I can reduce the damage to the surroundings. After that, I'll shot down by using [Air Shotgun] as much as possible and avoid which I can't intercept. It is slightly severe but... I'll do it. Now is the time for me to show the result of my training to Sirius-sama.

When I focused my mana... a huge golem suddenly appeared before my eyes.

That golem seemed to be in my way in order to protect me but would there be someone who had extra energy to summon a golem as a supporter? Nevertheless, the timing to summon that golem is unusually perfect. It was totally different compared to the golems that we fought a while ago, what's more...

"Don't mind about it, take care of that subhuman together with the golem!" (Gregory)

When Gregory shouted, all magics were entirely shot and aimed before the golem. Various sounds of explosions and soil breaking echoed, I looked up at golem when the noise ceased but the golem only had parts missing to some extent and its body was still intact. More than ten identical golems appeared when I looked around, they walked around the arena while protecting the other students.

These golems had amazing body parts that were precisely made, held a huge shield in its hand and had armor that was comprised of iron. From its size and joints, it must have been made at the same time as the golems were summoned. The skill to bring forth this many precisely made golems, I think it befits the earth attribute magician based on the enormous mana that appeared at the same time.

“It’s alright Emilia-kun.” (??)

“Eh? Magna…sensei?” (Emilia)

“Yes, that’s right. Now that I have come, it’s already safe. That is because it is impossible to break my golems with an attack of that level.” (Magna)

“Magna! Bastard, why are you here!?” (Gregory)

It was our home room teacher, Magna-sensei, when we turned around and he appeared riding on the shoulder of full grey colored golem. Is that grey colored golem wholly made of iron? I heard Magna-sensei is an expert in earth magic but I didn’t think this much was possible.

“I’ve decided to come and to beat you guys. Besides, I’m not the only one coming here.” (Magna)

“That’s right. I’m here too, Gregory-sensei.” (??)

“Ah…you…” (Gregory)

The owner of the voice sat on the stand.

Although they only heard the voice, Gregory and the students unintentionally withdrew back a step.

He is the school headmaster… Rodwell.

Rodwell stood up with fearless smile and was looking sharply at Gregory and the others.

“Now… are you prepared?” (Rodwell)

—

Extra/Bonus… or perhaps I should say, an alternate story? (Author)

The difference between Reus and Lior

Immediately after Dominique swallowed the Life Boost drug.

“On the other hand, the pain even disappears and I can let out tremendous strength!” (Dominique)

“Superb choice!” (Lior)

Several seconds later... Dominique becomes split in two.

Chapter 49: Magic Master

– Emilia –

Master Magician, Rodwell. (TLN: The name in raw is 魔法を極めし者(マジックマスター). The Japanese meaning for 'Magic Master' is One who regularly studies magic.)

The headmaster of our academy is a [Triple], so he specializes in three attributes; water, wind and earth.

His fame is equal to Lior-Ojiichan's. I've heard that no one exceeds him in terms of magic.

Sirius-sama sighs because such a person became obsessed with cake, but I don't think that can be helped. After all, the cake that Sirius-sama makes is very delicious, and anyone who eats it is filled with happiness.

On another note, the level of magic ability between him and Sirius-sama seems to be enormous. Sirius-sama even takes lessons from the headmaster when he brings cake to his office.

In my opinion, the magics that Sirius-sama uses are splendid and he seems to be an exception to the norm, as Sirius-sama specializes in attribute-less magic.

It is said that there is a desire to see Rodwell, who has mastered magic from all attributes even without specializing in them, battle seriously even just once.

Now, before us, he will display his true strength.

– Rodwell –

"Now... are you prepared?" (Rodwell)

Since the stands that I've entered from are slightly high up, it would normally be dangerous to jump into the arena directly, however that doesn't matter to me. I will just use the elementary level spell [Craft] to

make a staircase down using the dirt below. This magic is widely used in engineering, but Sirius-kun seems to just use for digging holes.

Chanting the magic's name, I began to walk down the newly formed stairs, but I seem to have attracted a large amount of attention from students and mercenaries alike. Is this degree of magic really rare? I used chantless magic to make an entire staircase, sure, but anyone could use magic to this degree if they tried.

Glancing around my surroundings, I saw Magna-sensei's golems defeating most of the mercenaries remaining. I leisurely walked into the arena, stopping my pace right beside Emilia-kun.

"Thank you for your hard work, Emilia-kun. Please leave the rest to me." (Rodwell)

"However, you're alone. I would like to assist you." (Emilia)

I was offered assistance, but let's just gratefully accept her feelings and decline. It would be shameful if I couldn't handle this much by myself.

"It's alright. If it's just to this degree, I'm good by myself." (Rodwell)

"...Understood. I will observe from the sidelines." (Emilia)

Understanding my intention, Emilia-kun bowed gracefully and stepped back.

Judging from her obedience and words, she intends to use my battle as a learning experience for herself, to allow herself to grow further. Huhu... that's good, I don't dislike that attitude. Satisfied with her aspirations, I turn around and step towards Gregory and his student posse.

"Why are you here!? I heard you bastards were in a neighboring town!" (Gregory)

"Do you really think I'd be fooled by such shallow information? I purposely left to lure you out, why else would I advertise my leave as much as I did?" (Rodwell)

You are good at hiding, but quick to jump at any opportunity you get. So, I took advantage of that misinformation and used it against you.

For you to prepare war potential to this extent though... I certainly didn't expect Golia to be involved in this. Furthermore, to use these collars on the students... though, this could turn into a good lesson for them. This way they can personally experience the disgusting impacts of using these collars.

"You should've immediately been suspicious when the barrier was activated. I deceived you fools quite splendidly, trapping you right here." (Rodwell)

"I-if that's the case, how did you bastards get back in!? I confirmed that you had truly left town before I made my move!" (Gregory)

"That is, well, I'm the creator of the barrier." (Rodwell)

In truth, we entered through an underground passage created by Magna-sensei.

Since I buried the passage once we had come back through, nobody noticed it, and escape was once again impossible. I may have been the creator of this design, but there are too many flaws that I've noticed today. I should improve the barrier to close off underground access, and then focus on improving the portion in the sky afterwards. It should be fine to hold off on that until later though, since there are no monsters in the immediate area who can fly that high.

"Anyway, I've finally cornered you guys. Now, if you all surrender immediately, I will let you off with only facing the castle's verdict. How about that?" (Rodwell)

Either way, Gregory won't be able to escape capital punishment.

Furthermore, I've already informed the King, Cardeas, about the situation here. He's stationed soldiers outside the barrier to capture any who flee and assist with remaining conflict when the barrier goes down again. He's also ordered the capture of any nobles who were involved with this, although most of them are here inside the barrier.

I already expected Gregory to refuse to surrender, and indeed he points and laughs at me foolishly instead. He's a stubborn fool for not

recognizing his impending loss. Well, I'll just do what I please now. There's no need for me to explain anything to him.

"Surrender? I will defeat you and run away, that's it." (Gregory)

"Run away, right?" (Rodwell)

"Yes, running away. Together with my comrades, the time has come to defeat you, 'Magic Master'" (Gregory)

"Understood!" (Posse)

"If we defeat him... we will surely be famous, you know?" (Gregory)

The students were completely won over by Gregory's rhetoric. Despite this being long past about beastkin, they still are very determined. It seems they don't understand the mess they have gotten themselves into.

"You guys, do you understand what that man intends to do? Understand why he is doing what he is?" (Rodwell)

"Gregory's father was killed by those detestable beastkin! Will you forgive for such a crime!?" (Posse Member)

"That's right! Elysion doesn't need beastkin!" (Posse Member)

"That's correct, but do you know how his father died?" (Rodwell)

"I know it. He was killed by incompetents and beastkin who were blinded by greed, right?" (Posse Member)

The students were right, Gregory's father was killed in his own house. He was stabbed repeatedly with a knife, by a group of beastkin and attribute-less who snuck in. There were also gold coins scattered all around.

...However, that information was altered and the truth is different.

"Most of that is correct, however certain things you said differ from the truth. It's true that he was killed by beastkin and attribute-less, but they weren't a random group. No, in reality they were his slaves. He didn't treat them kindly, either." (Rodwell)

“”””!?””” (Posse)

Due in large part to his excessive cruelty, the slaves hated him to the point that they would gladly welcome their own deaths in exchange for his.

Indeed, when his arrogant and cruel behavior exceeded their patience, they murdered him. Once word of the murder got out, the slaves were hunted down, with half being killed outright by the guards. Those who remained were killed by their collars, but all of the slaves died with content expressions on their faces.

“For nobles, there is no disgrace worse than being killed by your own slaves. So, the true reason behind his death was swept under the rug, and a false story was presented to preserve his dignity.” (Rodwell)

“You’re wrong! My father was murdered by greedy incompetents and beastkin!” (Gregory)

“If they were after money, they wouldn’t have picked a location with such tight security. More likely they would’ve chosen a smaller, more remote location. Anyhow, it’s his own fault that your father was murdered. It’s unreasonable to hate beastkin and attribute-less, after all.” (Rodwell)

“Keh... what could a senile old man understand about this!?” (Gregory)

“I cannot understand your beliefs when you are willing to involve others in your personal grudges, nor do I wish to. Gregory, I’ve said in the past that you need to learn from your father’s mistake. You have failed at this task.” (Rodwell)

“Shut up, shut up! You’re a senile old man who’s held the position of headmaster for too long! How long do you intend to cling to that seat!?” (Gregory)

“I’m not particularly attached to this position. I simply can’t find the right timing to resign.” (Rodwell)

Oh? Changing topics forcefully since I hit the bullseye? That’s fine though, the students who made up his posse have started to doubt him.

After fighting on that side for this long, I think they probably understand that a lot of the motivation behind this revolution is simply personal grudges, right?

It's true that I've been the headmaster of this school for nearly a century, but that means there's no reason why I wouldn't know about you. It's not funny to call me a senile old man either, I have reasons why I can't retire!

"If that's the case, I'll have you retire by my hand! Oi, you guys!" (Gregory)

"B-but..." (Posse Member)

"...Wha" (Posse Member)

"You've committed the same crimes as me up until now! Thinking of backing down now is foolish, we're in the same boat! That's no longer an option!" (Gregory)

"Kuh... Do we have any other choice?" (Posse Member)

"I'll do it! First I'll defeat this guy, then I'll kill that incompetent!" (Alstore)

"That's right! Besides, if we win here, we won't be criminals! We'll be heroes! Follow me!" (Gregory)

Alstore-kun seems to be vigorous, isn't he? He was probably shunned and abandoned by his parents the moment he decided to participate in this. Likely by now the only thoughts in his head are those of revenge against Sirius-kun. The other students were less certain, but were spurred into action by Gregory's rhetoric once more.

Each of them began to invoke magic; intermediate magics of various attributes hovered above the group in the air, aimed at me. I could count at least twenty. It seems Gregory invoked five [Flame Lance] in particular...

"Oh yes. The reason I haven't retired is..." (Rodwell)

"Drop dead old man!" (Gregory)

“There are plenty of people with the same level of strength as you guys, you know. This much is nothing. [Multi Elemental].” (Rodwell)

They released their magics towards me, and multiple explosions occurred when their magic collided with my own. As the dust cleared, I could clearly see a shocked expression on Gregory’s face when he saw me unharmed. They don’t seem to understand what just happened, perhaps I should do it again more clearly?

“Eh? He was hit… right?” (Posse Member)

“Ah, aah. He should have been hit.” (Posse Member)

“What seems to be the problem? Could you all have run out of mana after just one exchange?” (Rodwell)

“Do not falter! Keep pressuring him!” (Gregory)

They begin chanting again, but I’m in no rush to intercept since I don’t need to chant myself. Looking at the scene in front of me, I judge that I can just cast at any time and still intercept their magic safely.

However, I’ll make them reflect this time instead. I’ll give the other students a lesson using these fools, to dissuade any other idiotic thoughts they might have. To put it simply, I’ll overwhelm them and crush their confidence into tiny little bits. Besides, as someone at the top, people have a desire to see the heights of my abilities. The road to where I am is far and long, and many will give up along the way, no doubt about it. However, I want to show the younger generations that if you believe in your magic, you can achieve great heights.

Previously I invoked the magic just before they got me, but this time I’ll invoke it the moment they finish chanting.

“Spear of Flame! [Flame Lance]” (Posse Member)

“Rock spear, pierce! [Earth Lance]” (Posse Member)

“Shoot with water! [Aqua Barrett]” (Posse Member)

“Tear of wind! [Air Slash]” (Posse Member)

“[Multi Elemental]” (Rodwell)

Matching the type of spell and number summoned, I launched my own counter magic at them, neutralizing the spells successfully.

All around the arena, students stared in sheer amazement at my magic, adjusted to the exact level needed to cancel out the magic used against me.

“Is it already over? Your words of revolution, are they nothing but cheap talk?” (Rodwell)

“Wha!? Bastard, spear of flame–...” (Gregory)

“Too slow, [Multi Elemental].” (Rodwell)

Gregory regained his spirit earlier than the other students, but I invoked my magic once more before he finished chanting.

He summoned more copies of [Flame Lance] than he had previously, and had them float above him on standby as he kept chanting. Unbeknownst to him though, the other students who previously supported him had lost all of their fighting spirit, and most had fallen into complete silence.

[Multi Elemental].

An original magic that I’ve created after several decades of research.

It’s a magic that allows me to invoke the same elemental magic as the opponent, like with the [Flame Lance] that Gregory was summoning. It’s advantage is that I can invoke the same magic regardless of attribute, so I’m not limited to the fire element. That said, I have to be familiar with the magic my opponent is using to invoke the spell successfully. I need to understand the chant used and condense it to use it myself, which means the spell is almost impossible to use if the opponent uses chantless magic.

Currently, I can invoke thirty magics at a maximum, most likely because I’m a [Triple].

“How long will you sit there chanting? I’m tired of waiting, and I only grow older with each passing second.” (Rodwell)

“A-as long as I can, you fool!” (Gregory)

“Is that so? Well if you’re not coming, I’m going at you. I’d recommend you sit still during this, to lessen damage to yourself.” (Rodwell)

Pointing my fingers towards my opponent, twenty magics were invoked and simultaneously attack Gregory and the others.

Spears of flame, bullets of water, blades of wind, spires of earth. All of these simultaneously ravaged the arena, as onlookers could only watch and feel pity for those on the receiving end of my attack?

When I blew away the dust my attack kicked up with [Wind], I could see the arena we were previously standing in in complete ruin. The only exception was where Gregory and the students were, which was left relatively unscathed. Since I can’t kill them, I had to lower the power and purposely aim away from them to avoid a direct hit. Though, admittedly, I did go a bit overboard. The arena is a mess. I guess I can always repair it later with [Craft].

“Will you surrender?” (Rodwell)

“Ah… I’ve come so far… this is as far as I go?…” (Gregory)

“Since this is groundless trouble, please answer quickly.” (Rodwell)

I invoked [Multi Elemental] again, this time summoning the full thirty [Flame Lance] to my side. Finally, one of them broke. A student ran towards me hands up, bowing down and apologizing.

“I surrender! Please forgive me, I swear to you that I won’t do something like this ever again!” (Posse Member)

“M-me too! It’s impossible to win against such opponent!” (Posse Member)

“I cannot die… until I defeat that incompetent. I surrender as well.” (Alstore)

The students surrender one by one, until Gregory is the only one remaining. It doesn’t matter, since he will be taken care of soon anyway,

but let's use him to the fullest first.

Since the ensuing battles around me ceased when I unleashed my magic a moment ago, I took advantage of the stillness and used wind magic to amplify my voice.

"Everyone! Gregory is nothing more than an extremist who hates beastkin and colorless. He views any reckless or vile action against them as righteous and any other actions as shameful. As evidence, look no further than the collars around some of your necks." (Rodwell)

Although what I am saying is slightly exaggerated, it's perfect for this situation. For putting slave collars on these students who are not slaves, I will slander you as much as I feel like. I'll turn you into an example for them.

"This is the result of his foolish belief. Understand that I am not telling you to stop hating someone and like them instead. All I ask is that you don't hold prejudice against someone without good reason." (Rodwell)

"But, headmaster! Actually, I don't dislike beastkin. We...were tricked by Gregory!" (Posse Member)

"Me too! I was ordered to do it by that man." (Posse Member)

"Is that so? However, you guys still acted, even if someone else made you. If you call yourselves proud nobles, you'll take responsibility for your actions." (Rodwell)

Although the students who followed Gregory prostrated themselves desperately, I will not forgive them. You've broken the law and stained your hands with crime, I refuse to defend you now.

I said they need to take responsibility as nobles, but I doubt they'll still be treated as nobles when it comes time for their punishment.

"Just accept the punishment from castle obediently. Don't bother clinging to your parents either, with all of the witnesses here, myself included, it is useless." (Rodwell)

This also includes the remaining mercenaries around the arena, and at

my words the students begin to smile with the sight of victory so close. Next is the root of the problem, Gregory. He is unlikely to try resisting after that, but his eyes still burn with indignation.

"Is there something you want to say?" (Rodwell)

"If you bastards didn't show up, this would have gone smoothly..." (Gregory)

"So what?" (Rodwell)

I expected him to spout something along those lines, but even if I hadn't shown up, I have a feeling that this still would've been wrapped up quickly. Perhaps even sooner than this. That person, who eliminated 'Dragon's Fresh Blood' on his own would've had an easy time with just this number of opponents. That said, I can't see him anywhere. Where is he?

"Emilia-kun, where is your master, Sirius-kun?" (Rodwell)

"Ah, yes. Sirius-sama is acting separately while still secretly watching over us." (Emilia)

He's taking action separately, but still watching secretly? Hmm, if that's the case, I wonder where he is to be able to see what's happening here? Regardless, he probably didn't act himself because he understood my intentions from the beginning.

He understood my reasoning for overlooking Gregory's rampage; to not only capture as many as I could, but to use the opportunity to teach the other students a lesson. I didn't expect the slave collars, but this incident may prove useful for changing the opinions of those who dislike beastkin.

Once this is over, let's take off the collars from the students. They should have the key for the collar somewhere.

"Gregory, where is the key for the collars? It won't be good for you if you hide it, you know." (Rodwell)

"... Golia has full authority of the collars. So, I don't know." (Gregory)

"Headmaster, he's currently paralyzed and disabled..." (Emilia)

The moment Emilia-kun pointed at Golia, white fog suddenly engulfed the arena.

There was mana reaction... this seems to be [Aqua Mist]. The fog thickened while I was analyzing it, to the point where I could barely see Emilia-kun, who was only a few steps in front of me.

A loud clamor drowns out much of my hearing, as the students start panicking at the lack of visibility, but amidst that I picked up a voice that couldn't be misheard.

"Master, Golia is secured! Let's get out!" (??)

"Well done!" (Gregory)

The voices of an unusually agitated man and Gregory echoed from the fog. Is this fog a cover for those two? I could easily blow away the fog, but that does me no good unless I can find where the magic formations that serve as the source of the fog are located.

"Water, please! Emilia, over there!" (Reese)

"Yeah, I saw it! [Air Shot]! [Wind Storm]!" (Emilia)

Emilia-kun and Reese-kun were already moving before I could take action.

Reese who is good with water searches for the formations, and then Emilia breaks it using [Air Shot] while simultaneously blowing away the fog with [Wind Storm]. I look forward the future of these two.

"Where are Gregory and Golia!?" (Reese)

"They're not here! Find them!" (Emilia)

"Oi! The mercenary guy is also gone!" (Reus)

They were already gone by the time the fog cleared; neither shadow nor figure remained. The students searched around the arena, but they probably fled outside.

"Good grief, not only he is good at hiding but he's fast at escaping too." (Rodwell)

“Headmaster! Those guys may have escaped, but this case is still not settled yet!” (Emilia)

“That’s right! The lives of the students with collars on are in their palms!” (Reese)

“Please calm down, all of you. Those guys haven’t escaped yet, their location will be found immediately. Don’t worry.” (Rodwell)

Emilia-kun and Reese-kun drew close to me, flustered, but panicking is pointless. They won’t get far with the barrier in place, not to mention to reinforcements just past it.

“Magna. Have you prepared the arrangements?” (Rodwell)

“Yes. The arrangements have been completed.” (Magna)

Before we came to the arena, Magna-sensei and I deployed our golems around the border. If they enter a fight with someone, we will be notified immediately, and no doubt Gregory will have a hard time beating them in that state. At that point, we just have to thoroughly search the surrounding area for them.

Besides... they will likely be done in before they even come across the golems...

– Gregory –

... Why?

Why do I have to run away with such an unsightly appearance?

My plan was to charge towards the castle with students as hostage, use them as a meat wall, and eliminate the royal family. For that, I was even willing to join hands with a money monger like Golia. So why did it turn out this way?

Running behind me and breathing raggedly was the head mercenary I hired as lookout and to organize the other mercenaries, Dominique.

“Oi Master! It doesn’t look like they are chasing us...” (Dominique)

(TLN: Dominique calls Gregory as Danna which also can be translated as Master)

The mercenary carried Golia with one arm, the other was severed, and followed behind me while we ran. He stumbled slightly, slowed down, and turned to me with a dubious look as he said that.

I thought he was nothing but a miserable excuse for a mercenary when I saw the subhuman student cut him, but there's no mistaking his tenacity, to escape like this. He loses out against that subhuman as far as fighting ability goes, but he is much better at surviving.

"You survived well." (Gregory)

"Heh! I don't feel pain because of the drug. I had fainted, but woke up almost immediately." (Dominique)

It seems that he judged himself unable to win in that situation, so he pretended to lose consciousness. Then, when he saw a chance, he used a magic stone inlayed with the formation for [Aqua Mist].

"Dear me, this situation is the worst. I've used so much expensive equipment, and I've lost an arm." (Dominique)

"Hmph, the situation is awful, I agree. At least you still have one arm." (Gregory)

The situation is displeasing for certain, but we have Golia, who controls the collars.

The collars are designed to explode if they are forcefully removed, so it will take a while to dismantle, even for an experienced magic engineer. Plus, there are over 200 collars, so it should take a day or two at least.

Golia would recover during that time, and if we can convince him to trigger some of the collars, we can regain our advantage. Those wearing the collars are expendable, and we can show those who resist that we mean business.

It would have been better if we did that in the beginning. If only Golia weren't so stingy with the lives of those students! Everything went

downhill because of him, and he was even disabled by the same paralysis poison we used against the teachers. The fool, doesn't he get that any who don't understand our vision are useless, and thus expendable?

"Well, how are we going to escape? The barrier is still in place..." (Dominique)

"Who do you think I am!? You should follow me silently!" (Gregory)

The barrier is strong, sure, but I'm not going to the barrier's border. I'm going to go underground, using earth magic to dig holes. That senile old man probably got in here with that trick.

Even if Dominique here falls defending us, as long as Golia and I escape, our victory is assured.

You can only blame yourself, Rodwell, for not fully completing the design of the barrier.

"Stop, Master!" (Dominique)

The mercenaries halted and yelled at me loudly. What do you have to say now, stopping when you just said that we need to escape quickly!

"Stop it, Master! You'll be killed!" (Dominique)

I couldn't ignore him so I reluctantly stopped and turned back. I thought he was going to complain, but instead he tossed Golia aside and grabbed his sword, grim look on his face.

"Oi you bastard, that man is a noble. Treat him more carefully." (Gregory)

"Cheh! This is why nobles are stupid and unpleasant. Don't you notice the bloodlust coming towards you?" (Dominique)

"Bloodlust? There's no such-..!?" (Gregory)

Something runs through my body suddenly. Although it ran around excitedly, I have begun to feel chill.

What is this!? The crumbling mercenary said about bloodlust but this level is the similar to the time being stared by Rodwell... No, is it more

than that?

“Oi oi, monstrous beastkin, monstrous elf showed up, so what next? What’s with this school?” (Dominique)

I don’t know! I don’t know who is releasing this bloodlust!

If Rodwell’s bloodlust is like a knife being shoved at my throat, then this bloodlust is like being gouged throughout my whole body! My whole body has become numb, as I stare ahead sweating and trembling.

As I stood there breathing hard from the bloodlust that bathed over me, a strange man appeared from the shadow of building.

No, he is probably a youth from his physical and height. His appearance is extremely extravagant, dressed in black clothing that covers his whole body and wearing a white mask that covers his face.

He looks strange, but there’s no mistaking the fact that he is the being releasing the bloodlust that has my blood frozen.

That person walked slowly strolled towards me, and then...

“Where do you think you’re going?” (Sirius)

Yeah, I was called by the youth’s voice.

Chapter 50: The End of Short Foolish Revolution

– Sirius –

"...You two have become strong." (Sirius)

I watched the siblings fight from afar with something akin to a telescope, quietly complimenting them on their growth.

Unfortunately, Reus let himself slip towards the end of his battle. It was great that he was able to defeat the mercenary, Dominique, in a direct fight. However, as the conflict came to a close, he immediately left to support others without confirming the status of his enemy. Definitely a failure on his part, perhaps I was too hasty when I gave him my compliments earlier in that battle. Oh well, I won't complain since I was happy for him as well.

In the end, not just Dominique got away, but the one who has the authority over the slave collars fled too. In any other situation, this could have proven a fatal mistake on Rodwell's part.

However, in reality that person is still young and inexperienced in many ways. These were all common mistakes, and hopefully everyone involved will learn from this and grow.

So, the task of cleaning up the remaining mess... is mine.

"Where do you think you're going?" (Sirius)

Anticipating their arrival, I was already in position to intercept the key players who fled from the arena. When I saw them coming my way, I jumped from the sky while releasing bloodlust, and landed in front of Gregory and Dominique.

As I increased my bloodlust slightly, Dominique quickly tossed aside the man he was carrying, and brandished his sword. His quick perception and reaction to my appearance shows that he's been in plenty of life and

death situations. On the other hand, Gregory, who didn't initially notice my presence, was just standing there dumbfounded. He wasn't even chanting.

"Bastard... name yourself!" (Dominique)

"What name would be most appropriate... Canis Major, I suppose?" (Sirius)

"Oo- Canis? I can't say I'm familiar with the name." (Dominique)

Though it's polite to give your name first when fighting someone, as expected, I would like to have my true identity remain anonymous here. I prepared to draw the Mithril Knife from its place on my chestpiece, expecting Dominique to continue the conversation and stall. Instead, he turned and smacked Gregory, bringing him back to reality.

"Oi, noble! How long to plan to stand there looking stupid?" (Dominique)

"Haa!? Wh-what on earth is he? He appears to be nothing more than an eccentric brat, so why is he so overpowering?" (Gregory)

"I don't know, however my gut tells me that he's a monster! We'll be killed if we're careless!" (Dominique)

Finally recognizing the situation they were in, Gregory got into a battle stance. At the same time, Dominique charged at me, readying his greatsword for a swing with just a single hand. Despite using a weapon that should be held with two hands, he swung it with no more effort than swinging a twig would require.

His sword may have driven Reus into a corner, but it means nothing to me when compared to Lior's style and the bouts I had with him. I evaded his downward swing effortlessly, jumping backwards. Instead of pursuing me, Dominique paused and appeared to be carefully weighing his options in this situation.

"Cheh, to require so much effort to fight you, and yet I still can't even graze you. What is going on?" (Dominique)

“Your style isn’t that bad, but you’re too sloppy for it to be effective. I would suggest that you put more emphasis on feints and other tricks while fighting to cut down on wasteful movement. Furthermore, you’re too taut when you fight, loosen up a bit.” (Sirius)

“Thank you for the advice, but if you’re so willing to give it, couldn’t you just let us go? Must we fight here?” (Dominique)

The ability to gauge your opponent’s strength is vital to survival in tense situations. He must have grasped at my true strength during our little exchange there. Tossing aside his sword, Dominique raised his hands in surrender. Gregory, however, wasn’t interested in being that passive.

“What in the world are you doing, you imbecile!? Why won’t you just quickly defeat him so we can move on!?” (Gregory)

“Shut it, you stupid noble! It’s better to get arrested than to face this monstrous person, don’t you think!?” (Dominique)

“Ugh… there seems to be no other way. Oi, you over there. Are you sure you can’t look the other way? If it’s gold you want, I can provide you with plenty, you know?” (Gregory)

“Pass, I don’t need it. Sorry to disappoint you, but I don’t have any plans to let you escape.” (Sirius)

It’s to be expected that I won’t let Gregory go, but if I think about the future, I can’t let Dominique go either.Dominique is the leader of a mercenary group, and works for the underground. If I let him go now, there’s no telling how much trouble he could cause for me in the future. Furthermore, I plan to make him pay for hurting Reus in the fight earlier.

“Please hold a minute! We already have lost interest in this revolution, so please spare us! That’s right, if gold coins aren’t enough, we have white gold coins as well! With those, you could live your life comfortably without working ever again! Furthermore, isn’t already enough to have this unconscious man here?” (Dominique)

“You’re talking a lot for someone in your position, do you think I’m

stupid? You're buying time, perhaps trying to strike me down with magic while I focus on you?" (Sirius)

Turning to Gregory, who was chanting to prepare his magic, I heard Dominique click his tongue in annoyance as he realized that his plan had been seen through. Rushing me down with his sword drawn, he swung at me.

"Cheh! He's really troublesome enemy." (Dominique)

"I could say the same of you; you play a lot of tricks." (Sirius)

After deflecting his sword swing to the side, I stepped in close to Dominique and grabbed his arm. Using his momentum, I tripped him and threw him down onto the ground, smashing the back of his head hard. That was not enough to finish it though, he continued to swing the sword like clockwork even from that uncomfortable position.

"I wasn't going easy on you in the slightest, but that still wasn't enough to finish you, huh?" (Sirius)

"Of course not! This thing allows me to keep fighting at my strongest, it would be a waste for me to play dead!" (Dominique)

"You're using 'Life Boost' huh? I hate that detestable thing." (Sirius)

Though her life was drawing to a close already, that drug was what killed mother.

I tried to suppress the effects of that drug, but no matter how much I tried, she wasn't going to make it more than a day after ingesting it.

I have complicated feelings about it, but at least at that time we were able to spend one last day with her in complete happiness.

Gregory is planning to attack me with magic while Dominique distracts me. Good, that's an appropriate method when pairing up against a tough opponent.

"Spear of fire, [Flame—... wha!?" (Gregory)

Gregory invoked [Flame Lance], but before it could fully take form, I interrupted it with my own [Flame Lance]. When Emilia would do the

same thing the spells would explode, but I do it fast enough that it simply dissipates into the air.

Gregory emphasizes his magic capacity by casting multiple spells at once, but in doing so he sacrifices his chant speed. His invocations are slow to come out, making it easy for to interrupt them. In comparison, Rodwell's speed is significant that I would already have to be dodging in the air before I would have the chance to cancel his chanting. The risk there is significant.

"Are you even trying to help, noble!?" (Dominique)

"Shut up! Spear of fire, [Flame–...!?" (Gregory)

I shot [Magnum] at Gregory's magic while repelling the incoming swing sword. Dominique held small pouch on his mouth that he took out from his chest and was about to release it but I held his jaw with fingers and switched to sides. I don't know what's inside it but it won't be a problem if it doesn't come out.

"Keh! He even saw this coming!?" (Dominique)

"I offer my life to those who worship the ground, [Rock Golem]" (Gregory)

Dominique withdrew at once, sticking the sword into the ground and throwing three small knives. At the same time, Gregory summoned more golems to attack me. I disposed of those quickly with [Magnum Shot] after finding their magic formations with [Search].

As I got a closer look at the knives approaching me, I realized that they were coated with something. Evading two of them with minimal movement, I caught a hold of the handle on the last one, and threw it back at Dominique.

"Haa!? What kind of eyesight do you have!?" (Dominique)

"Spear of Fire, [Flame–..." (Gregory)

I extinguished the [Flame Lance] spells that Gregory was invoking, and Dominique deflected the dagger I threw back at him with the flat of his

blade. Following that, he returned to swinging at me, while also using magic stones with his mouth. I noticed as they were shot towards me that they were inlaid with a fire magic formation, but he launched them too quickly to be useful. I used [String] to smack them away long before they managed to invoke any magic, and they exploded off in the distance. I then warded off another swing of Dominique's sword with the knife, and returned his attack by striking him in the stomach with my knee.

Unfortunately, that strike didn't even faze him. The 'life boost' drug that he consumed deprived him of the sense of pain; he shrugged off the attack and continued swinging at me. I quickly backed away to avoid the blade.

"Is this also no good!?" (Dominique)

"– Bring forth, [Rock Golem]" (Gregory)

Despite there being three golems this time, I needed only one hand to destroy them with [Magnum]. It's easy to fight him with [Multi Task].

"Impossible! How can he do this so effortlessly!?" (Gregory)

Even if you ask why, it was foolish to use magic that can be easily dispelled. You should've learned from fighting against Emilia, but your pride as a noble has led to negligence, and that in turn will lead to your downfall.

That was how the fight continued from that point on; I would dodge and evade strikes from Dominique while destroying any magic that Gregory would attempt to invoke. They were visibly becoming increasingly frustrated at their inability to wound me, despite teaming up against me.

"This is no good, can't just do this forever..." (Dominique)

"Haa... haa... that senile old man will catch up if we sit here for too long. Do something quickly, mercenary!" (Gregory)

"Keh, this noble... oi, that's easier said than done!" (Dominique)

Even while gasping for air, struggling from mana exhaustion, Gregory is still arrogant as usual. Dominique laughed as he was cursed at, already

used to his partner's antics. Turning back to me, he shoves his sword into the ground and points at me in a grandiose manner.

"We don't have a lot of time, so let's finish it with this next exchange." (Dominique)

"Just go all out, if you have something up your sleeve. This isn't the time to be stingy, right?" (Sirius)

"That's true. My employer is already in the red, with all of the expensive tools I've had to use thus far. There's no point in holding back at this point, so I'll be going all out to try to kill you now." (Dominique)

"What did you say, you bastard!? Were you playing until now!?" (Gregory)

"As a mercenary, I'm different that you nobles, you know? I don't get my kicks the same way you do. It's fine as long as we survive, anyway." (Dominique)

Those were truly the words of a mercenary, I from a certain perspective, I could understand where he was coming from. I was in a similar line of work in my previous life, after all. However, in this situation, it was foolish for him to hold back and not go all out, as a safety precaution.

"Alright, here I come! Time for my trump card!" (Dominique)

First, he threw magic stones on either side of me, to try and seal my movements. Following this, he threw the sword that he had previously stuck in the ground directly at me. While he had the right idea with sealing my movement, I was still left with more than enough room to dodge the incoming sword blade. However, there was something black extending from the bottom of the blade, back towards Dominique's hand. Are those... chains? I thought the sword was simply large, but was this guy trained in a special fighting style after all?

"If you think you can avoid it, avoid it then!" (Dominique)

While yelling out those words, Dominique yanked on the handle to pull the sword blade back towards me. Furthermore, Dominique charged towards me at the same moment, and I saw a smaller blade connected to

the handle. In short, I was sandwiched from front and rear.

I'm tempted to dodge to the sides, but if I did, it's likely that I would get caught up in the explosion from the magic stones. Even without the use of both arms, he's quite talented to be able to restrict my movements like this.

However, I have fought nastier enemies than this in my previous life.

Compared to those fights, this attack is full of holes. Of course Dominique will have taken measures against me evading, but I'm capable of fighting in non-standard ways. I could repeat my earlier strategy of using [String] to knock the magic stones away, towards him in this case. I could also escape into the sky with [Air Step]. However, I want to shatter his confidence entirely, so I think I'll boldly challenge him from the front instead.

First, I used [Magnum] to destroy the magic stones on both sides of me. I then dodged the sword that was coming from behind, jumping over it and landing on its back, pushing it into the ground.

"That's absurd!" (Dominique)

Lastly, I evaded the incoming thrust from Dominique, dropping low and slicing upwards with my own knife as we passed by each other.

Dominique's remaining hand dropped to the ground with a dull thud. Defeated, he turned and looked at me with a resigned look on his face.

"So, that's the end of it, huh? You're the 'Aniki' that beastkin kid was referring to, right? He didn't lie about you being the strongest..." (Dominique)

"To your credit, I believe you were trained well in various ways too." (Sirius)

"What? That was just a cheap trick, you know?" (Dominique)

"No matter what method you use, it's natural to use everything you have to try and win. You were generous in assuming I was a strong person." (Sirius)

“I’ve never met a monster like you... I’ve completely lost. Ah, would you mind not stopping your attack here? I’d like to die before I feel the consequences of using the ‘life boost’ drug, if you’ll grant me that.” (Dominique)

“That’s fine. It’s impossible to kill yourself without hands, after all.” (Sirius)

I approached Dominique, preparing to shove my knife into his throat, and he starting laughing...

“Thank you...gah!?” (Dominique)

I hit Dominique’s chin with my palm, knocking his head upwards slightly, and forcing his mouth closed.

Flames burst forth from his eyes and nose, and he crumpled to the ground.

“Like I said, your assumptions were too generous.” (Sirius)

He had swallowed magic stones. It was probably just an elementary level [Flame] magic, but at that range it would’ve been significant enough to damage even me. Such a tactic would inflict serious damage unto himself, so this was likely his true trump card.

However, I saw that coming, so I forced his mouth closed. All of the damage was sustained by the inside of his body, and I was left uninjured. In my previous life, people who go so far as to consume large-scale explosives as a last resort, so comparatively I feel like his method was too soft to be effective.

I turn my back from the charred Dominique, and face down Gregory.

“Next is your turn.” (Sirius)

“Ah..w-why? Why are you aiming at me, you bastard!?” (Gregory)

“Haven’t we decided that it’s because of your hatred against beastkin?” (Sirius)

“I don’t know who you are though!” (Gregory)

“Is that so? How about now?” (Sirius)

It was obvious that Gregory was petrified after seeing Dominique’s fate, and was grasping for straws. I decided to indulge him, and removed my mask to reveal my true identity to him. Of course, the truth enraged him further.

“Y-you incompetent bastard!? Do you think a mere commoner will get away with doing such a thing against a noble!?” (Gregory)

“Oi oi, you’re not a noble. You’re nothing more than a criminal. You call this a revolution, but you’ve involved innocent people into this against their wills.” (Sirius)

“Silence! If not for the absurd strength of those subhumans, you incompetent, you wouldn’t be able do a thing against me!” (Gregory)

“Are you a moron? You call me an incompetent, yet you can’t even raise a finger against me in retaliation. I’ve destroyed your magic, and backed you into a corner, can’t you see?” (Sirius)

“Shut up, shut up! I’ll tear down your false strength! [Flame]” (Gregory)

Oh? He can use chantless elementary magic after all. I point my finger at his fireball and use [Impact], and it explodes before vanishing entirely. I realize that it would be troublesome if he tried to flee, so I take aim at one of his legs and use [Impact] once more, destroying his leg and turning everything below his knee into shattered bone and blood.

“Guhaa!? W-why!? Why does my magic disappear!?” (Gregory)

“You should calm down a bit. You’ll never understand the situation if you sit there screaming and frothing at the mouth in rage.” (Sirius)

“Guuhh... bastard! You incompetent... incompetent!” (Gregory)

He tried to put up a tough front by calling me an incompetent, but he had already realized the difference in ability between us, so his words carried no weight. As he glared at me, with hatred burning deep within his eyes, I picked up the sword of the mercenary leader, Dominique. It was a bit heavy, even for me, but I didn’t worry since I wouldn’t be

needing to swing it around.

“Well then…if you have any last requests, speak them now.” (Sirius)

“Wait! You bastard, why do you have such a strong grudge against me!? I never tried to kill you personally, right?!” (Gregory)

“You did play various tricks on me sure, but those aren’t the cause of my hatred. You’ve done other things to incur my wrath.” (Sirius)

“Th-there’s someone else who runs the revolution, other than me! If that’s what this is about, I’m just a representative only!” (Gregory)

“No, that’s trivial matter to me, I don’t care about it. Shut your mouth and listen up. Were you the one who invited ‘Dragon’s Fresh Blood’ to Elysion? I’ll know immediately if you lie to me, so don’t even try.” (Sirius)

“Hii!? Aa, aaah. It’s true, I was the one who invited them! However, I had no say in their actions beyond that…” (Gregory)

“That’s why I have a grudge against you.” (Sirius)

That’s right, personally I don’t care about this revolution. Each person has different ideas and beliefs, and I’ve seen more convincing disagreements in my previous life. I can’t bring myself to get invested in this.

My hatred for this scum comes from only one place…

“You invited that trash into this country, and because of that my disciples almost died. In revenge, I’ll dispose of you. It’s that simple.” (Sirius)

“Wha!? Something that simple made you turn to such extremes as killing me!?” (Gregory)

“I won’t allow myself to do any less to you. When I saw the tears in my disciples’ eyes, I swore to myself that I would make you suffer.” (Sirius)

“T-that was all them! I did nothing!” (Gregory)

“Hadn’t you realized that they were murderers when you invited them? It’s unlikely that you didn’t, and even were that true, it still doesn’t

matter. I won't lose sleep over disposing of you." (Sirius)

"I tried to stop them! They wouldn't list-...buhh!?" (Gregory)

I was becoming increasingly annoyed by his excuses, so I hit him in the face to quiet him. I didn't hit him very hard, a little bleeding will be the most damage he incurs from that punch.

He probably planned to use 'Dragon's Fresh Blood' in this revolution the same way he used Dominique. However, those people were vicious and gleeful killers, yet he didn't even try to stop them. Due to his lunacy, countless commoners and servants became unwilling and unnecessary victims.

"I was going to leave the matter of disposing of you to the headmaster, however fate seems to have you landing right in my lap. You've committed the crime of nearly killing my disciples... should I make you compensate, perhaps?" (Sirius)

"Hu, huhahaha... I refuse! You can die!" (Gregory)

Gregory pulled a knife out from his clothes, attempting to stab me, but I didn't even need to dodge such a pathetic attempt to kill me. He was used to fighting with magic, there was no strength behind that stab. Grabbing his hand and shoving it down, knife and all, was sufficient to stop the attempt. I broke some fingers for good measure.

"Meguuaaa-!? N-now, do it now!" (Gregory)

While he screamed in pain, I looked back and saw Dominique approaching me, smouldering. Normally, one wouldn't be able to endure one's mouth and nose burning, but he simply trudged forwards. His eyes found me, and with a blade in his mouth, he swung down towards me.

But... while in the middle of swinging, Dominique's movement stopped.

"W-what are you doing!? Kill this guy quickly!?" (Gregory)

"It's useless." (Sirius)

I lightly tapped Dominique with the sword I took from him, and he tilted forward, falling to the ground and remaining still. That was his

body; his head continued moving, rolling past me and towards Gregory.

“Hii!? W-when did you..!?” (Gregory)

“As I thought, there’s no easy way to stop someone who has consumed the ‘life boost’ drug, short of severing their head from their body. It’s good that he felt no pain, though.” (Sirius)

An opponent who feels no pain is truly troublesome, but they aren’t immortal. After all, the body can’t function without a brain to support it; he isn’t a creature from some story book, that could exist without a head or regenerate itself at will.

Once I confirm that Dominique is truly dead this time, I release the [String] that I had secretly placed around him. The [String] I used this time was particularly thin and sharp, almost invisible and extremely lethal. Since I had placed it around his neck-height, I didn’t need to make any moves, the person finished himself off by moving forward.

“Don’t worry, you’ll be finished by this sword. You can die without any lost limbs.” (Sirius)

“Aa...uhaa...stop it...if only I hadn’t discriminated against subhumans...” (Gregory)

Do you really think that the situation at hand would have gone differently if that were the case? I’ve let you despair enough, let’s finish this quickly.

“Your father was killed by incompetents and beastkin, not yourself. His own incompetence was the cause of that, but rather than making a difference, you chose to follow in his footsteps. Resent yourself for being a captive of the past.” (Sirius)

“You’re a monster! No, a demon! You’re a demon in human skin!!” (Gregory)

“Thank you. I’ve been called the God of Death in the past though, so calling me something like a demon doesn’t bother me in the slightest. Though, should I act the part, and settle your request?” (Sirius)

“Aa...aaaaa! Stop! Stop, stop, stop, stopppppp!” (Gregory)

“Farewell.” (Sirius)

I buried the sword into Gregory’s heart.

—

“Aah! Sirius-sama-!” (Emilia)

After I finished cleaning up the mess outside, I changed my clothes and brought Golia back to the arena. Since I entered from the front this time, Emilia quickly noticed me and dashed over with a smile on her face.

“Good job, Emilia. I saw your battle.” (Sirius)

“Yes! So... what did you think?” (Emilia)

“Aah, you did well in handling the other students and in your own fights, your training has served you well. Your tactic of snatching this man from their control was also a smart move, so you’ve done a great job.” (Sirius)

“Really!?” (Emilia)

Emilia had bright eyes and was wagging her tail as though she expected a reward, so I indulged her and patted her on the head. She smiled and looked almost as though she were melting from my actions, but since I had other things to do, I stopped it there. There was a flash of disappointment when I removed my hand from her head, but she quickly replaced it with a smile and stood by my side.

“I’ll continue later. Right now I have baggage I need to deliver to the headmaster.” (Sirius)

“Yes! Ah, please let me help deliver the baggage!” (Emilia)

Given the contents of the baggage, I didn’t feel comfortable letting Emilia carry it. So, I politely declined Emilia’s offer and approached the headmaster. He was busy talking with other students who had the slave collars on.

I thought he would certainly pursue Gregory, but instead he was still here doing other things.

“Sirius-kun I’ve been waiting.” (Rodwell)

“Thank you. Headmaster, you didn’t go after Gregory so what are you doing here? (Sirius)

“Because Gregory’s companion, Golia escaped, I decided it would be more appropriate for me to focus on calming the students who were still trapped by the slave collars. Anyhow, that’s Golia right there, correct Sirius-kun?” (Rodwell)

“That’s right. The paralysis is still in effect, but it’s best that we tie him up first as a precaution. Moreover, I’ll hand this over. It fell out of that man’s pocket.” (Sirius)

The item in question was the key to the slave collars currently trapping so many students. Luckily these collars were mass-produced, so the key would work on all of them. The headmaster nodded his head, satisfied, as I handed over the master key and plenty of spares.

“Thank you very much. Magna-sensei, here you go. Pass some of the keys to the other teachers, so we can free the students at a faster pace.” (Rodwell)

“Understood.” (Magna)

They keys were handed over to Magna-sensei and other teachers, and the students were made to line up and approach the teachers to have their collars removed. Understandably there were some students who tried to cut in line, but they were quickly apprehended by Magna-sensei’s golems and sent to the back of the line. Rushing would just cause a panic, which wouldn’t be helpful at any point in this situation.

While I observed this, Rodwell consoled me with a smile on his face.

“Good work, Sirius-kun. You carried out your job splendidly, recovering Golia and the keys.” (Rodwell)

“Thank you very much.” (Sirius)

“The headmaster wasn’t rushed, because he had requested Sirius-sama’s assistance earlier.” (Emilia)

I don’t recall the situation having happened in quite the way she’s explaining, things were likely exaggerated to credit me. I’m tempted to deny her words, but since there are other people watching, I’ll leave it alone for now. Rather, I’ll take advantage of this opportunity to ask a few questions of my own.

“However, headmaster, the mercenary man and Gregory were fighting each other when I showed up. They killed each other, thus I didn’t make any effort in capturing them.” (Sirius)

“That can’t be true! If it’s Sirius-sama, either one person or ten person– … muguhh!” (Emilia)

Since it would be troublesome if she continued, I covered Emilia’s mouth with my hand to stifle her comments. She was surprised at this, but I appealed to her with my eyes, and she calmed down. Rather, she seems to be gleeful sniffing my hand.

After pondering it for a bit, I decided to go with the story that Dominique and Gregory had killed each other. Of course, since Dominique was decapitated, and Gregory didn’t have a sword, I could get caught if I weren’t careful.

In order to make it look like they had killed each other, I reattached Dominique’s head and then burned his body with fire magic. I also impaled Gregory’s corpse on Dominique’s sword. Nobles and mercenaries were a bad combination, so it wouldn’t be surprising to most that they might have had a falling out..

The weak point in my story is Golia. If he were to call me out, I’d have trouble defending myself. Luckily, he was facing the other way and unconscious during most, if not all, of the conflict. Furthermore, I pretended to leave as the masked figure and return as Sirius the student, so he shouldn’t be able to draw the connection between those two characters.

“Internal strife, huh? …Understood, we’ll leave it at that.” (Rodwell)

“Yes. It was over without any significant trouble.” (Sirius)

The headmaster and I communicated smiled at each other, though while we were speaking, our eyes conveyed the real conversation. Despite knowing that there was more to the story than what I was saying, since I refused to give him any ground, he was forced to give up and accept it for what it was.

The rest of Gregory’s matter wasn’t pursued, and they gave up asking me.

“I have to hand it to Reese-kun, thanks to her there was no need for medical assistance for injured students. It’s natural to have excellent fighting ability, but to have excellent leadership skills and exceptional recovery magic on top of that. She was even leading the seniors alongside Emilia. Your disciples are certainly splendid.” (Rodwell)

“Thank you very much. They are my proud disciples, after all.” (Sirius)

Emilia was glad to receive the praise and wagged her tail. I also caught her rubbing against the hand that was clamped over her mouth, but I chose to ignore that.

“Aa, Sirius-san. Welcome back.” (Reese)

Rodwell left Golia to his advisors and went to go speak to some of the newer teachers, and Reese approached me to welcome me back. She had been busy treating the students all around the arena, so she had been too busy to notice me before. She came forward and looked me up and down, before nodding satisfactorily.

“You are… not injured. Being safe is the best.” (Reese)

“I could say the same thing to you. Wasn’t it hard to treat everyone here after treating Emilia and Reus the whole fight?” (Sirius)

“It was indeed difficult, but I’m just glad that my power can be of use to everyone. I have you to thank for that, Sirius-san.” (Resse)

“That’s true, everything is thanks to Sirius-sama.” (Emilia)

“No, rather this victory was a result of your efforts…” (Sirius)

I think the disciples worked hard this time, so I want to reward their efforts. The question is, what would they like?

“You guys, do you have any requests? I’ll fulfill them as long as they aren’t unreasonable.” (Sirius)

“Eh!? Err… really?” (Emilia)

“Err…we’re happy but Sirius-san also contributed greatly, so we…” (Reese)

“It’s alright. You got past this crisis safely, so it’s fine to give one or two rewards, don’t you think? You don’t have to hold back, you know.” (Sirius)

“A reasonable reward… that’s difficult!” (Emilia)

“Emilia, calm down just a bit! But… I wonder what’s good? I want to see if I can eat whole cake, maybe.” (Reese)

“If you need more time to decide, feel free. By the way, where is Reus?” (Sirius)

This whole time, I’ve been looking for Reus. Normally he’d be right by my side, eager to get a reward of his own. This time though, I haven’t seen him at all.

“Err, if it’s Reus…” (Emilia)

When I followed Emilia’s gaze, a familiar figure was leaning against an arena wall. Could that be…Reus? He had a thick, dark atmosphere about him that was far different from his usual vigorous aura.

Since he has such a different atmosphere about him than usual, I didn’t even recognize him.

“…What’s going on with him?” (Sirius)

“That is… the mercenary leader escaped and took Golia with him. He felt like everything since is his fault, and he is depressed because of that…” (Emilia)

“He was very happy to be praised by Sirius-san, so he felt like that mistake betrayed your expectations.” (Reese)

“Good grief… Oi, Reus!” (Sirius)

Reus slowly turned around when I called out to him. It was obvious that he was depressed, his ears and tail were drooping low. Oh dear, it’s hard to feel elated when this guy is in such a state.

“Come here quickly, Reus. ‘Pause’!” (Sirius)

“… Yeah.” (Reus)

Reus slowly began moving towards me when I gave the order, dragging his favorite sword behind him. Finally, he reached me.

“Why are you depressed?” (Sirius)

“That’s because… Everyone was in trouble because of me.” (Reus)

Haa… this foolish disciple.

Hey, don’t tell me such obvious lie. I poked Reus on the head to get his attention on me, and stop him from looking away.

“You’re not depressed because you made a mistake are you, you’re depressed because you think I’m upset with you, right? Answer honestly.” (Sirius)

“… Yeah.” (Reus)

“If that’s the case, then you’ve made another mistake. I’m not going to scold you. Rather, I have to praise you for doing as well as you did against that enemy.” (Sirius)

“Eh!?” (Reus)

Reus was surprised, looking towards me to confirm if I was being genuine or not. I didn’t mind, instead patting his head and rubbing between his ears. It didn’t take long for his smile to return to his face, and light to return to his eyes.

“You made the mistake of not checking to see if Dominique was dead or alive before leaving. Do you understand that?” (Sirius)

“Yeah. As a result of that, I troubled everyone.” (Reus)

“If you understand that, then it’s all good. In the first place, you were

fighting a tough opponent. Judging it honestly, it was probably too soon for you to go up against someone like him." (Sirius)

If the opponent were simply strong, it wouldn't have been a problem. However, Dominique was a member of the underworld, cunning and not afraid to fight dirty. That guy was plotting the entire fight, and if it weren't for his obligations to the ones who hired him, he likely would've fought more seriously against Reus. If that were to happen, Reus most likely would've died.

I simply wanted Reus to fight that man as training, and yet Reus managed to even win against him. With that level of growth, there's no way for me to be anything other than proud, let alone angry.

"Besides, your opponent this time was doping with 'life boost'. So, you should be proud of that victory." (Sirius)

"Aniki... is it alright for me to be glad?" (Reus)

"Oo, be glad, be glad. Look, I'll pat you more." (Sirius)

"...Yeayyy!" (Reus)

That's right, rejoice to your heart's content.

On another note, while Emilia and Reese were relieved that Reus had regained his spirit, there was an air of jealousy about them because I was petting Reus so much.

Rodwell, returning to our group, laughed as he saw the situation around Reus.

"Huhuhu, as expected of Sirius-kun. Reus became spirited just with that." (Rodwell)

"It was remarkable for Reus to hold his own against that man. There's no need for him to be depressed." (Sirius)

"That's right. I am also grateful, not only for holding off the mercenary, but for fighting against Golia. You have every right to be proud right now." (Rodwell)

I understand that Rodwell had his own expectations for how this would

turn out.

However, you're way too lenient about this disturbance and Gregory's escape. Furthermore, you are like this despite Reus being depressed about it to such an extent. I think I'll prepare a bit of a 'counter attack'.

"As expected of headmaster. You've lived for how many hundreds of years, and yet you still strive to improve." (Sirius)

"Of course. People are creatures who cannot help but make mistakes. What's important is that you have a heart that lets you reflect on them." (Rodwell)

"That kind of thinking is fantastic. Well then, in the spirit of reflection and improvement, let's hold back on sweets for now, until you get in shape." (Sirius)

"...Eh?" (Rodwell)

"To be specific, I won't be supplying you with cake for a while." (Sirius)

"Err...wait a sec, Sirius-kun?" (Rodwell)

There is obviously some truth in my words, the headmaster doesn't seem to be able to retort. The man who was overpowering in the eyes of his enemies just a few hours ago, now appeared feeble and lost in thought.

Magna-sensei, who overheard our conversation, was unable to remain indifferent to such a situation, and came over to intervene.

"Sirius-kun, the headmaster has various stressful tasks and responsibilities that are pressuring him, and he never has time to take a vacation. Meanwhile, Sirius-kun's sweets are soothing. I implore you to reconsider." (Magna)

"Magna-sensei. Thank you for protecting Emilia with your golem. As means of thanking you, I'll supply you with a whole cake this time." (Sirius)

"Headmaster, please reflect on it." (Magna)

"Magna!?" (Rodwell)

—

Finally, once the students who were trapped in the slave collars were released, and those holed up in the classrooms were freed, everyone was able to laugh and start recovering from this incident.

It will be a bitter memory for those involved, especially those trapped by the collars, but they will be more sympathetic to those in similar positions to themselves. They've learned a good lesson through this event, if it is any consolation to them.

Gregory was shunned for his actions, and became an example to everyone in the school. His death was revealed to the students present, and they were told that the ones behind this incident would face capital punishment.

Thus, while more people were involved than should have been, the revolution came to close before ever involving the whole country.

Chapter 51: A Noisy Party

It's been two days since the foolish "revolution" ended.

Scars from the fight are still scattered across the school grounds, but the students themselves have begun to recover already.

Classes were cancelled for the time being, to allow for time to rest and recuperate. That said, students were still required to remain on campus unless they had official business elsewhere.

Also during this time, the castle was meeting with students to investigate the situation that occurred.

They also are launching a full-scale investigation into the students to make sure that nobody from Gregory's faction remains. So that things remain under wraps, though, they are meeting with students one by one. Thus, the whole process is taking a while.

We are all relaxing at the Diamond Cottage, waiting our turns. We are apparently going after most students, and since the cottage rarely sees visitors unless for strictly business reasons, the only ones here are the disciples and myself. I'm taking advantage of the free time to reward the disciples for their achievement in the recent conflict.

"Aniki! Again, again!" (Reus)

"Sirius-sama! I will catch it next, please watch me carefully." (Emilia)

"Alright, alright. Ready? Go get it!" (Sirius)

Put simply... we were fooling around all day.

I was throwing a frisbee for the siblings to run around and catch. I'd say we were having a typical summer day for kids our age, but with the amount of dust they were kicking up, it looks more like they are in a martial arts competition.

Despite only having been two days since that stressful event, we are already back to normal.

Students who were injured in some way certainly had an awful time, but we were largely unharmed. Rather, I think that this was a great experience for us all. As for Reus, while he was in a dark mood soon after the event, he was long past that. Instead, he was now chasing the frisbee with the happiest of looks on his face.

Incidentally, the reason for us playing frisbee at the moment was because Reus requested it as his reward.

“It looks really fun, sitting here watching almost makes me jealous.” (Reese)

“These two really like Frisbee, as long as I’m the one throwing it.” (Sirius)

We’ve played frisbee many times, but they are always the ones going to catch it after it is thrown. Don’t you two ever tire of that?

“Reese, do you want to join them?” (Sirius)

“It’s too difficult for me to compete against the two of them, so I’m fine with just sitting on the side here.” (Reese)

“I got it!” (Emilia)

“Wait, Nee-chan! That wasn’t fair!” (Reus)

Stepping on your younger brother’s back to reach the frisbee wasn’t nice, Emilia.

Emilia dashed back over to me after successfully catching the frisbee. Looking up at me with a gleam in her eyes, I could tell that she wanted praise, so I patted the top of her head.

“Good, nice catch.” (Sirius)

“Uhuhu… I did it!” (Emilia)

“I’ll get it next time! Aniki, throw it quickly!” (Reus)

“So that’s what they are up to…” (Reese)

“Wait, do you understand the reason? Why? Reese?” (Sirius)

“That’s to be expected, isn’t it? However, Sirius-san doesn’t need to

understand the reason. I'll be going too, so please don't throw too hard." (Reese)

"Oi, what are you playing at, Reese?" (Sirius)

While I was busy thinking about why Reese suddenly got motivated to participate, she had already rolled up her sleeves and lined up next to the siblings.

"It seems like you've realized why were are doing this, Reese. However, please don't get comfortable and assume that we will just let you win." (Emilia)

"I'll get the next one for sure." (Reus)

"I'm not going to back down that easily!... I would like to win at least a little bit." (Reese)

I don't really understand it, but the game got a lot more competitive once Reese joined in.

By the time we stopped playing, Emilia had caught about 60% of all of my throws, with Reus tailing at around 40%. Reese caught a few as well, since the siblings were going easy on her. Though, it's worth mentioning that these are all estimates, since I had long since lost track of exactly how many times I threw the frisbee.

—

We continued playing around like that all morning, until it was past noon. Now it was time for Reese's reward, in the form of me baking plenty of sweets for her to taste. Since today is the first day off from training that we've had in a long while, I plan to go all out with my cooking.

"Cake, pudding or crepes. I can make many things, is there something in specific you would like though?" (Sirius)

"Um... I want to eat all of the varieties of cake that Sirius-san can make." (Reese)

"Good choice, Reese-ane!" (Reus)

... Won't you get heartburn if you ate every type of cake? No, if it's Reese, she's likely consume them all quickly with no issue.

"It would be too time consuming for me to make all kinds, so please forgive me if I limit it to three varieties. How about shortcake, cheesecake and fruitcake?" (Sirius)

"I don't mind! Huhu... I can't wait..." (Reese)

"Aniki, aniki! I want to eat takoyaki that you mentioned last time!" (Reus)

"Aah, is that so? We don't have a dedicated iron plate though, so are you alright with having okonomiyaki instead?" (Sirius)

"I don't understand what that is, but whatever Aniki makes is certain to be delicious, so I'm alright with it." (Reus)

I ordered a round iron plate from Galgan Company, but I haven't yet received it. While they were curious about why I wanted a specific shape, when I mentioned that it was for a new dish, they immediately complied.

Since I'm going to make cake right now, I'll save making okonomiyaki for dinner tonight.

"Well then, shall we make the batter?" (Sirius)

"I'll help." (Reese)

"You can leave mixing the batter to me!" (Reus)

"Sirius-sama, preparation for cooking is complete." (Emilia)

When I sought to start preparing the necessary tools and ingredients, I turned to see Emilia presenting me with those things already ready to go. Listening to our conversation earlier told her all she needed to know about the ingredients and the method we will use to cook the cakes. Her abilities as a servant are incredibly refined.

"As I expected of you, Emilia." (Sirius)

"Thank you very much. However, while I can do that much, I don't know the cooking ingredients for okonomiyaki. What is needed for that?"

(Emilia)

“Aah, don’t worry about it for now. We’ll deal with that when it gets closer to dinner time. Right now, it’s time for a cake party!” (Sirius)

“Cake party... that sounds wonderful!” (Reese?)

—

I began making cakes together with my happy disciples.

I left the task of mixing the batter to Emilia and the others, while I focused on the more difficult tasks like preparing and distributing whipped cream. Since all three types of cake vary in size and sugar requirements, I suppose I should alter the amount I use for them all? Plus I have to make a lot of each...

I put the completed batter in the oven to bake and rise, and stored the whipped cream and other perishable ingredients in the fridge so they remain cool. All that is left now is to wait for the batter to finish baking so we can complete the cake.

“It was the right decision to make a bigger oven. If I hadn’t, it would’ve taken me all night just to make these cakes.” (Sirius)

“Sirius-sama, there are more Apu fruit left. What are we going to do with it.” (Emilia)

“Well, let’s just eat it.” (Sirius)

“Understood. Reus, get some plates please.” (Emilia)

“Ouu!” (Reus)

“This is an appetizer for the cake huh.” (Reese)

Emilia placed the remaining fruits on the table. In situations like these, my disciples refuse to eat before me. However, as I was about to reach for a piece, Emilia grabbed one and held it up to my mouth.

“Sirius-sama, please open your mouth.” (Emilia)

“It’s fine, I can eat by myself.” (Sirius)

“Then, will you not allow me my reward?” (Emilia)

Emilia said so while sulking, cheeks puffed out. That’s right, Emilia said this morning that she wanted to serve me.

Normally, one would think that she would request the other way around, but it seems that she would be unsatisfied with such a thing.

Furthermore, while I thought that serving tea or doing the dishes would be sufficient, it apparently wasn’t. I guess this is something else that she wanted?

“Please, say ‘aah’.” (Emilia)

“Since we were busy during the harvest festival I didn’t notice, but you really like doing this, huh?” (Sirius)

“Of course. Ah, also please let me wash your back tonight.” (Emilia)

“...If you wish it, but don’t show up without clothes.” (Sirius)

“...Alright.” (Emilia)

Why do you act so disappointed!? I would like you to act at least slightly modest! While I was thinking in such a fatherly manner, Reese held out an Apu as well.

“Pl-please have it Sirius-san!” (Reese)

“You too, Reese?” (Sirius)

“Ah, if you don’t like it...” (Reese)

“Hold on, I didn’t say that. Let’s have it, then.” (Sirius)

“Y-yes!” (Reese)

Reese smiled slightly and nodded, feeding me with her face entirely red.

“...Yeah, I somehow understand how Emilia feels. Although it’s embarrassing, I am somewhat happy.” (Reese)

“Since it’s Reese, I knew you would understand! Next time... no, let’s wash Sirius-sama’s back together tonight!” (Emilia)

“Eh!? ...Yeah, I suppose I’ll do it?” (Reese)

“Wait a minute!” (Sirius)

In the first place, the bathroom can’t fit that many people at once. No, wait. That’s not the issue here!

I’m not used to it, honestly speaking, the idea of being touched by those two who have undeniably bloomed into attractive young women. Worse yet, those two are both in favor of, or at least would accept it if, I ‘attacked’ them in such a situation. Emilia, in particular, would remove her clothes without restraint. Reese would hesitate slightly, but likely in the end agree to it.

I can control my sexual desire to some degree, and it’s not like I have any plans to ‘attack’ them. However, this body is young and in the middle of puberty. I’d rather play it safe.

“I’m going to ask both of you, please stop. Have a little modesty.” (Sirius)

“It can’t be helped then. We’ll split up, today will be my turn, and tomorrow will be Reese’s.” (Emilia)

“I-I’ll do my best!” (Reese)

The more I refuse, the harder they push, it seems. I’ll concede to them washing my back for now, but no further, if it means they will let it go for a little longer.

Though it may be foolish for me to say this now, I didn’t realize that those two liked me to such an extent. I planned to bring them up in the same way I would my disciples in my previous life, because I was an old man there. It’s different for them though, since in this world we are of the same age.

It’s not like I’m against the idea of marrying young, and there aren’t any laws in this world against it.

However, I need more time.

I don’t want to settle down just yet. I may have an income, but it isn’t stable. If both of them intend to marry me, I will honor their wishes.

However, when school is over I plan to travel the world as a teacher. Reese still doesn't understand the full implications of marriage I think, and I feel like Emilia deserves a proper response from me. Not as a master, but as a man.

I feel like the best time to do that would be after graduation, peacefully traveling around... but I feel bad about keeping a vaguely defined relationship with her. I suppose I should at least make her my fiance?

While debating it, another Apu entered my vision, being thrust towards my mouth. This time, it was Reus.

"Aniki, please open your mouth." (Reus)

"What, you too?" (Sirius)

"Well, I like Aniki too, so I want you to eat this one as well." (Reus)

Of course, Reus and I have no such relationship. He probably thinks this is normal behavior between companions, unrelated to gender or attraction.

Although this is to be expected of Reus, I think it is about time that I introduce him to those topics. Continuing to act along these lines unaware and naively will be dangerous for him in the future.

...I thought he might be sad if I refused though, so I still ate the Apu.

—

Later on, when the cake batter had finished cooking and I was decorating the top of the caked with whipped cream and fruit, the sound of a bell rang out from the front entrance.

"I'm coming." (Emilia)

Before I could say anything, Emilia took initiative and dashed towards the door. The bell sound from earlier was a replacement for doorbells, and was just a simple string contraption set up to ring when the door was opened. I could detect someone's presence without it, but it still feels necessary for a house.

I put the finishing touches on the shortcake as Emilia came back to the kitchen, accompanied by the guest.

“Hello, Sirius-kun. Pardon my sudden intrusion.” (Lifell)

“Ane-sama!? Why are you here?” (Reese)

“You say that as though I can’t come here. Can’t I though?” (Lifell)

“That’s not what I’m saying, I’m just asking you to tell me in advance, so I can prepare various things before you arrive…” (Reese)

Princess Lifell disguised herself and made her way to the cottage it would seem, followed closely by Senia and Melt. Reese, while surprised by their sudden appearance, was delighted.

“I don’t need a special welcome, seeing your face is enough for me. On another note, we seem to have arrived at a good time; there’s quite the pleasant scene in front of us.” (Lifell)

The sisters’ eyes were both completely focused on the assortment of cakes lined up on the table. It was indeed an accurate statement to say that they came at a great time.

The table was rather crowded with the addition of three more people, but everyone was somehow able to cram together and fit. Initially, Senia refused to sit, as she felt is was improper to sit as though she were equal with her master.

“This may be an informal visit, but we don’t mind standing, we are servants after all.” (Senia)

“That’s no good, here in the Diamond Cottage, everyone is welcome at the table. It doesn’t matter if you are master or servant, commoner or noble. Besides, we have to repay you for your hospitality after the incident with Reese.” (Emilia)

“Right! It’s disrespectful to Aniki to eat his cake while standing anyway, so come, sit down! Please, Melt-san, have a seat.” (Reus)

“H-hmm. Sorry about that…” (Melt)

The two hesitantly sat down, after conceding to the overwhelmingly

happy attitudes of the siblings. It may have bothered them, but it was a rule that there was no place for silly traditions like that in Diamond Cottage.

Furthermore, Princess Lifell herself had no problem with it. She kept chatting happily away with Reese, so there wasn't a problem.

"This is just our first visit out here, but this house has a wonderful atmosphere within it, doesn't it?" (Lifell)

"The school dormitories are great as well, but Diamond Cottage is better by far. Among other things, Sirius-san has made different adjustments to the common house design to make living here easy." (Reese)

"Though it is smaller than the castle and sanatorium, I'm do enjoy this place." (Senia)

"It's nice to experience things I'm not used to, though it does feel weird to take off my shoes and wear these 'slippers'." (Lifell)

"I was also unsettled at first, but once you get used to it, it is actually very comfortable." (Reese)

"Perhaps we should do this in the castle too, Senia?" (Lifell)

"Lifell-sama, the castle is... after all..." (Senia)

"Of course, it's a joke. Oh, could this be?" (Lifell)

"That's an oven. All of the cakes that Sirius-san has baked have come from here!" (Reese)

—

While Reese kept Princess Lifell occupied, the cakes all finished up. I cut them all up into manageable bites, and set the platters out on the table for everyone to dig into. Meanwhile, Emilia and Senia had gone to prepare some tea, and I set the table. Thus, preparations were complete.

"Yeah... it feels amazing to see this many cakes lined up in front of me. I

should be praised for my timing." (Lifell)

"I'm sorry, but since this is a reward for Reese, are you fine with prioritizing her?" (Sirius)

"Of course, I don't mind. I'm happy just being able to have the cake at all." (Lifell)

"Thank you very much. Then, you three, dig in." (Sirius)

"Yes! Well then, itadakimasu." (Reese)

Reese took the lead, grabbing slices from each cake, and eating them almost as fast as she grabbed them.

Emilia ate one plate and grabbed another, while Reus reserved two entire shortcakes for himself. Reese took two shortcakes as well; their personalities are definitely reflected in their choice of food.

Since I'm good with eating only one slice, I instead redirected the other slices of cake towards Princess Lifell.

"There are a lot more, so feel free to have another helping. Here you go, Melt-san and Senia-san." (Sirius)

"Yeah, you understand well, Sirius-kun! It's luxurious, having all three kinds together." (Lifell)

"I will accept your generosity, and dig in then." (Senia)

"Sorry for the trouble. Well then, I'll have that fruit cake." (Melt)

Just as I was about to take my first bite, a piece of cake was thrust in my face, of course by Emilia. Since it would be too troublesome to deny her with the audience we had, I ate it quickly to try and move on from it.

"Uhuhu... how about another one?" (Emilia)

"Shall I have it? However, make sure you eat as well, I haven't made these cakes for just myself." (Sirius)

"I already had two so it's enough. This way, I'm happy because I can take care of Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

Emilia seems happy making me eat the cakes. She's a little too excited

though, I take my cup from her as she tries to make me drink, so she doesn't end up spilling the tea all over.

Princess Lifell stared at us as though we were a couple, madly in love.

"I can understand Emilia, but I'm surprised that you've gotten used to it so wonderfully, Sirius. You're not shy at all. So, how do you feel about that, Reus?" (Lifell)

"Nee-chan is taking any opportunity she can, and Aniki is being taken care of well, so I'm okay with it." (Reus)

Mother used to feed me, even when I was capable of feeding myself. She did it because it brought her joy, of course I couldn't refuse. Emilia learned from that, and because of the situation behind it, I don't get shy about it.

"She certainly doesn't seem to be going at this halfhearted. Unlike my younger sister, that is..." (Lifell)

Princess Lifell turned to look at Reese, who was preoccupied by the cake, with a slightly disapproving look on her face.

"The sweetness of cake and the sourness of fruits can't be ignored, Ane-sama!" (Reese)

"...This girl. I understand that you enjoy cake, but you need to get a grip! If you were to marry Sirius, he might eventually become my underling, you know!?"

"Eh? Eh? Ane-sama doesn't like fruitcake?" (Reese)

"That's wrong! That's not at all what I'm saying! It is, but it isn't! Stop thinking about cake!" (Lifell)

Oh dear, Reese may be entirely too focused on food, but in a certain way, she is attractive. As expected, Lifell let her true intentions slip there. I'm not angry, because she is still prioritizing Reese's happiness, but I wish she would refrain from saying such things in front of the person in question.

They continued bickering for a while, until Reese understood what Lifell

was saying, and started blushing profusely. Smug from her victory, Lifell turned back to me and began speaking calmly again.

“I’m sorry. I was a bit excited.” (Lifell)

“I don’t mind. By the way, why has Princess Lifell shown up here? Are you here for business?” (Sirius)

“The one who had business here was Melt, not me. I came along for the fun of it.” (Lifell)

“I tried to come alone, but Hime-sama was obstinate and came anyway.” (Melt)

“Saying other things, but you know you enjoyed the trip here. Come here and let me pet your head.” (Lifell)

“Please don’t do that now, Hime! Anyway, my reason for visiting…” (Melt)

While trying to resist Princess Lifell’s teasing, Melt told us the reason for him coming here.

From my understanding, it seems Melt will be overseeing us personally during the interview.

A decision was made to dedicate plenty of staff from the castle for the task of interviewing students, so classes could reopen as soon as possible. However, because our residence is so far removed from the main building, it was taking too long to get around to us. Melt volunteered to take over the position when it came to interviewing us, and came here personally to inform us.

Additionally, Melt was thinking of checking up on Reese and bringing back some cake for Princess Lifell, so he had more motivation for this than just his duty. However, when he brought it up with the Princess, she insisted that she come as well.

Melt took out the documents he had carried along, setting them down lightly on the table.

“So, like I said, I will be the one conducting the individual interview for

you all. Of course, we can leave that for after we are done eating cake." (Met)

"Let me have a look, Melt. Hmm... there are many troublesome questions. It is designed to be a thorough as possible, I suppose, but this will take forever to get through." (Lifell)

"While that is true, thanks to the interviews, we were able to catch and suspend plenty of students who took part in, or supported those behind, the revolution. I'm sorry to ask this of you, but is there anywhere on the premises where we could hold the interview?" (Melt)

"There's a vacant room, indeed, but it is a storehouse. Alternatively, Reus, do you mind if–..." (Sirius)

"Yes, there is nothing suspicious about Sirius-kun and the others... Should I provide my signature, Melt?" (Lifell)

While I was trying to decide on where we would have the interview, Princess Lifell was already filling out the report. She hummed softly as she kept writing; at this rate, the paperwork would be finished in no time at all.

"As always, you do whatever you please... Please don't go any further, it would be troublesome in various ways if you were to sign your name on the report..." (Melt)

"Ane-sama, I understand that you won't be punished for it, but won't there be trouble if you do this?" (Reese)

"Perhaps, but you guys weren't doing such foolish things, were you? I feel like we would be the bad guys if we forced you to do this, when we very clearly know you weren't involved to that extent." (Lifell)

"That's right, Lifell-sama! Sirius-sama would never do such things. Besides, if Sirius-sama were to do that, you certainly wouldn't find out; it would go unnoticed for a long time." (Emilia)

"See, Malt? Even Emilia agrees, and she is closest to him." (Lifell)

"...I get the feeling that there is a large conflict of interest here, and isn't

there something wrong with that previous statement?...” (Melt)

—

Thus, the work that should’ve taken hours was wrapped up in a few minutes, thanks to the Princess.

After that, Reese kept being pushed by her sister to feed me as well, and we chatted peacefully into the evening.

Right as I was thinking of packing up the remaining cakes for Princess Lifell, the bell rang again at the front entrance. We had another guest.

“Who could it be? Is it... his Majesty?” (Senia)

“I don’t think it’s Father, he is very busy today.” (Lifell)

“Hmm... aah, it’s someone that we know. Emilia, please.” (Sirius)

“Understood.” (Emilia)

After confirming that it was nobody dangerous, I had Emilia go to the door to greet them. Although I say it isn’t anyone dangerous, they may have come at a poor time.

“Uhmm... Come on in.” (Emilia)

“Please excuse me, then. Oh, is that Princess Lifell? I didn’t expect to see you again in such a place.” (Rodwell)

“Ara, Ojii-sama? Long time no see.” (Lifell)

The headmaster, Rodwell, arrived.

Somehow this is first time he’s come to the Cottage, but wait, shouldn’t he still be busy with cleanup?

“... You guys are acquaintances, huh?” (Sirius)

“My father has been friends with this elf since childhood, so of course I’m familiar with him. Even now, he will consult with my father now and then, drinking sake under the moonlight.” (Lifell)

“I haven’t lived a long life for nothing, you know.” (Rodwell)

He pulled up a chair and crammed into the already tight table. Somehow it's become a scene wherein the chief executive of the academy, and the sole candidate for Queen, are both meeting in the house of a commoner. Isn't this a little odd?

"By the way Ojii-sama, why have you come? Don't you still have a lot of work?" (Lifell)

"Yes, unfortunately the work never seems to end. I've come here to rest and recover." (Rodwell)

Though he says that, somehow I get the feeling that he ran away and came here to hide.

Dealing with the culprits behind the revolution, those who supported them, the parents of the students who were involved; there is a long list of things that need done.

Taking advantage of the students who were biased and prejudiced to teach a lesson to the rest, I understand the need for change on a fundamental level, so I understand why that was done. However, there are still people asking why the school was left so vulnerable in the first place, and the administration needs to answer to that.

Personally, I thought he would have been removed from his position after this, but given his service record, he was overlooked in that regard. He may be a cake addict in front of me, but it seems he is exceptional at his duties outside of that.

"All of the formalities; stripping the traitor and his follower of their titles, instituting policy changes, making personal visits to the house of each noble family... these past few days have been so tiring." (Rodwell)

He's complaining, but only halfheartedly. His eyes and attention are glued to the cake sitting on the table. Uh oh, he isn't going to snap and go crazy from not having cake for two days, is he?

"...Would you like to eat some?" (Sirius)

"Is it alright?" (Rodwell)

“You’ve been working diligently through this busy time, and it would be rude for me to send you back after you’ve come all this way.” (Sirius)

He probably ran here looking for a place to hide, and was thinking of sweets subconsciously.

Hearing my words, the headmaster broke out into a smile. He may be 400 years old, but his looks aren’t anything to scoff at. Oi, don’t go making anyone here fall in love with you carelessly, you hear?

“Iyaa… I’m so happy. Well then, I accept your kind offer.” (Rodwell)

“I was planning on giving the rest to the Princess as a souvenir, but…” (Sirius)

“Ojii-sama! As a princess, I forbid you from eating that!” (Lifell)

“To use the authority of a princess to that extent… you’re serious, huh? Are you also my enemy?” (Rodwell)

“In the first place, Ojii-sama still has lots of work left. For you to not be able to wrap such a simple thing up before feeling the need to run away…” (Lifell)

“Ughh!? Iyaaa… haha, that hurts.” (Rodwell)

“So, I forbid you from taking that which I wish to enjoy tomorrow.” (Lifell)

“Lifell! At least one…” (Rodwell)

—

There was a slight disagreement, but thankfully Rodwell was pacified by a piece of cake, and Princess Lifell returned safely. Thanks to her and Melt, the troublesome interview was completed successfully. It finally feels like the disturbance is over.

I was able to grant Reus’ and Reese’s rewards already as well, so all that is left tonight is Emilia’s reward.

As Diamond Cottage became tranquil again, I sunk into the couch,

breathing out a sigh of relief.

—

“Even so, I said don’t come in naked! Put on a towel please!” (Sirius)

“I want Sirius-sama to see me, all grown up!” (Emilia)

“I also want you to see me, Aniki!” (Reus)

“Auu… it’s too much to be naked…” (Reese)

“You guys, that’s enough!” (Sirius)

… It seems the disturbance is not over yet.

—

Extra/Bonus

- Diamond Cottage Rules.
- Shoes off inside the house.
- The between meal snacks is twice a day unless it is decided in particular.
- Eat even you like it or not.
- Social status doesn’t matter, everyone sit equally and eat.
- The concept of ‘Report’, ‘Contact’ and ‘Consult’ must be maintained.
- Do not enter when Sirius takes a bath (Restriction for Emilia)
- Do not slip into bed (Restriction for Emilia)
- Sword training must be outside the house (Restriction for Reus)
- Be moderate when eating secretly (Restriction for Reese)

Intermission 1: Aiming to be an Adventurer

I've lived in Elysion for a little over four years now.

Reus had his thirteenth birthday yesterday, I turned thirteen myself a few days earlier.

In this world, turning thirteen means the number of locations where you are allowed to register and work at drastically increases.

So, we went to the Adventurer's Guild as soon as we could.

What is the Adventurer's Guild?

Various guilds exist in this world, each with a branch located in most population centers. This is because, apart from it being beneficial to the guilds themselves, having these guilds in a city brings wealth and prosperity to it, aiding with development. The two exceptions to this rule are the Mage's Guild, which deals exclusively with magic-related matters and persons, and the Merchant's Guild. The Merchant's Guild focuses mainly on trade-and-barter systems and, obviously, merchants.

To save a lengthy explanation, since that would take too much time, suffice it to say that the Adventurer's Guild is a place where you can take commissions for monster subjugation. It is a necessary existence for groundless wanderers, so that they can have an income. If we wish to travel after school, registering is a requirement.

While there are plenty of requirements for joining, the only one that posed an issue was the age restriction; you have to be thirteen before they will allow you to register. Since Emilia is a year older than both Reus and I, she could've registered last year. She declined though, preferring to register with me.

Anyhow, since both Reus and I are thirteen, the three of us came to register finally. Unexpectedly, someone else tagged along.

"By the way, Reese, are you certain that you want to register as well? I thought you disliked fighting monsters; you never try to defeat any."

(Sirius)

"That is certainly true, but I think I'll be alright now. I've grown a lot stronger in the past few years, and... my mother registered, so I think I want to as well." (Reese)

"That reminds me, she was an adventurer as well, wasn't she? Well, I suppose there's no harm in you registering, you can make money without needing to fight, after all." (Sirius)

I've heard from Zack that while the primary focus of the Adventurer's Guild is monster subjugation, the requests that are actually submitted vary quite a bit, some straying far from that intended purpose. I think that the Adventurer's Guild is a good thing, since it handles all kinds of requests.

"Finally, we can earn money with our own hands." (Emilia)

"Do you have something you are eager to buy? You can discuss with me if you'd like, since you have your own allowance, you know?" (Sirius)

I earn our current income by selling information and new products to Galgan Company. I then spend some of that money on Emilia's and Reus' food expenses and daily necessities, and additionally, I give them a little bit for an allowance every month.

I've yearned to do my best. I don't want to be stingy with raising the disciples, but I don't wish to spoil them either. So, while I haven't held back when it came to necessities, I haven't been spending money on trivial things.

"No, I'm fine because I can earn money myself. I don't wish to be seen as a spoiled child by Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"That's right. We will make lots and lots of money and support Aniki. We can eat anything even if Aniki is not doing anything." (Reus)

"I don't want to be a pimp..." (Sirius)

After all, I don't plan to let them do whatever they please to earn income.

That barely had an obsession with money until now... to think they had such a reason for wanting to earn some. I don't want to feel like a parent with a dutiful child, you know!? I'm not ready for that....

"If we think Sirius-sama can live abundantly while we earn income, the motivation to do that will go up endlessly." (Emilia)

"Defeating monsters, earning money, and returning home to eat Aniki's cooking in the evening. It sounds like a great life." (Reus)

Oi Reus, that sounds less like a servant's life, and more like one of a salary man's, you know? Moreover, aren't you resigning me to being a stay-at-home dad?

Regardless, I don't plan to become a pimp, so I will have to convince them to work moderately. That may take a while, unfortunately.

The Adventurer's Guild branch here in Elysion lies in the center of the capital.

We haven't been here before, since there wasn't any reason to come unless to register, and we couldn't do that until recently. So, this is in fact our first time seeing it.

Inside the building is a bar where plenty of people, both human and beastkin, are sitting down, drinking and chatting; that kind of expected scene plays out.

Looking around the interior of the building, I can see that most of the inhabitants are adults. As expected, since we are just children, we draw plenty of attention. We advance forward as though we don't notice, stopping finally in front of a counter with a sign above that read "Reception".

Customers were gathered in a huddle in front of the counter, all waiting for a receptionist to call them forward..

"Welcome to the Adventurer's Guild, Elysion branch!" (Receptionist)

The receptionist was a female catkin. She greeted us with a business smile, putting a black form on the table before continuing.

“If you are here to place a request for the guild, please fill out the details on this form, including task and monetary reward. If you are here to purchase or sell materials, I’m afraid this isn’t the correct counter, the one you are looking for is over there.” (Receptionist)

“Thank you, however we’ve come today to register, not to make a request.” (Sirius)

Her business smile didn’t cease, however a listless expression flickered across her face quickly. I picked it up before she could return to professional form. The receptionist looked at all of us, she finally looked at me and asked apologetically...

“Just to confirm, would you mind providing your age? You are aware that it is a requirement for all interested parties to be at the age of thirteen, correct?” (Receptionist)

“Yes, I know. All four of us are at or above the age of thirteen, so please don’t mind it.” (Sirius)

“Is that so? I apologize, you looked very young for... some reason. I just wanted to ensure that you were old enough.” (Receptionist)

Reese is one year older than me, and looks appropriate for her age. Comparatively though, both Emilia and Reus are both taller than me, with Reus being taller than me by a whole head already. This is largely attributed to them being beastkin, but regardless of that, all of them look like adults when standing next to me. Since I am so much shorter than the three of them, it is easy to mistake us for a lazy noble accompanied by his servant entourage. It seems like it would be easy to consider me an illegitimate son of some rich noble.

“It’s your job, so I don’t mind. Is it alright for us to register?” (Sirius)

“Yes, everything seems to be fine. Fill out this form with the necessary information, and a silver coin will be charged as a fee for this transaction.” (Receptionist)

“Sure, no problem.” (Sirius)

We get four forms from the female receptionist, filling it out with

things like our names and ages, as expected. There were also sections for preferred weapons, and weapon proficiencies, and Reese hesitated when she reached this section of the form.

“Err, I don’t use weapons, so what should I put here?” (Reese)

“If you specialize in or prefer to use magic, you can just leave that section blank.” (Receptionist)

“I should write down knife-wielding alongside Sirius-sama, right?” (Emilia)

“But Nee-chan, Aniki can use swords as well, you know? Shouldn’t he write down swords as well?” (Reus)

“No, his weapon choice is the same as mine, Knives!” (Emilia)

“It’s sword, a sword!” (Reus)

“Don’t fight over trivial things, you two.” (Sirius)

Ignoring the person in question just because you want to compete over who is closer to me, please don’t act so foolishly.

In general I use a knife, but that doesn’t mean that my fighting style revolves around having a knife. Since it would be troublesome to pick one over the other, I instead pick multiple types, including taijutsu.

After I finished filling out the form and dealing with the corresponding bickering between the siblings, I handed in the form to the receptionist. She grabbed out a device used to measure magical attributes from underneath the desk, intending to measure our aptitude and ability with said attributes.

“Next, I’m going to check your attribute’s aptitude directly. It’s very rare for a person not to know their attribute, but for the sake of registering, we must determine it with this method at least once. Well then, Emilia-sama, please.” (Receptionist)

After handing over the form, Emilia touched the tool and the crystal glittered with green color. The brightness of her color has increased since the last time I saw it; proof that her mana pool has increased

dramatically since then.

The receptionist was surprised for a moment, not expecting the orb to shine so brightly. She immediately corrected herself, though, jotting notes down on paper.

“It seems Emilia-sama has quite the large mana pool, and there is no mistaking her attribute – wind type. Now, who is next…” (Receptionist)

This process continued on with both Reese and Reus, and we began to gather the attention of the surrounding people. Finally, it was my turn…

“Lastly is Sirius-sama but… are you certain that you filled this form out correctly?” (Receptionist)

“Yes, it is as I wrote.” (Sirius)

“Understood. Err… this may just be my own opinion, but wouldn’t you think it better to go do this in private? If you’d like, I can borrow a room in the back, and explain your situation.” (Receptionist)

We have gathered plenty of attention on us, so she is speaking in a tone that leaves most unable to hear. I know very well the stigma against colorless people, so I imagine that this is her way of trying to help me. As expected of a receptionist, even knowing how to handle rowdy adventurers preemptively.

“Thank you very much. However, since that sounds like it would be troublesome, I’m fine with right here.” (Sirius)

“Is that so? Then, please extend your hand.” (Reception)

When I put my hand on the sphere, it emitted a brightness superior to that of either of my disciples. I went to remove my hand too slowly, and before I could react, a dull crack ‘sound’ was heard as the orb split open.

…Did I train my mana a bit too much? Since my mana recovery is abnormally fast, I was training it to the point of exhaustion multiple times a day..

While we may have been attracting attention before, by now we had the undivided attention of all of the members in the bar. While everyone else

remained silent in the face of such an event, the siblings proudly stuck their chest out, boasting.

“Aniki is amazing after all!” (Reus)

“That’s natural if it’s Sirius-sama. Nobody can say a word in the face of such splendor.” (Emilia)

“You know, Emilia, I think they were just shocked, no splendor involved.” (Sirius)

The receptionist at the back seems to have regained her sanity, she straightened her hair before coughing lightly and continuing. I wonder if hearing the voices of the siblings snapped her back to reality?

“S-since this tool has been used for many years, it must have broken from use. It’s alright, I was able to confirm the attribute after all, yep.” (Receptionist)

She tried to pass it off as a faulty machine, but I don’t mind. It would be troublesome if I had to explain things, so I let it slide..

After completing the form and the attribute assessment, we were informed that the next segment would be a practical skills test of sorts. It seems the proctor is a veteran adventurer, and if we can clear his assignment, then we should be done with registering for the guild.

Since the instructor was resting in the back of the building, and it would take a while to prepare the assessment, we waited a short distance from the reception counter. During that time, the other people inside gradually got over their shock from the previous assessment, and returned to staring suspiciously at us. Suddenly, the female receptionist turned my way and asked me a question.

“Err.. this is just a personal inquiry, but are you guys all students of the academy?” (Receptionist)

“That’s right, is there an issue?” (Sirius)

“No no, it’s understandable that your mana pool would be that large if you were a student of the academy.” (Receptionist)

As soon as they understand that we are students of the school, the suspicious glances of nearby people became softer. I had heard that the academy was popular, but I didn't imagine that it would be to this extent.

The academy is highly appreciated, even here huh? As the surrounding populace was admiring the "Cake Master", a middle-aged man approached us. Although he was wearing common adventurer gear, of average quality, he gave off an air of intimidation. It was the kind of air that only an experience veteran could give off. He was probably the instructor.

"Well, four people... is it? You guys are the children who came to register, right?" (??)

"Yes. You are the person in charge of the practical skill exam, correct? By any chance, are you a former adventurer?" (Sirius)

"That's right. Yes, I am a former adventurer. Though, that's all in the past. I jumped at the opportunity to retire and work here as an instructor of sorts. First of all, why don't we start by introducing ourselves? My name is Reed, but while we are here, I'd prefer that you refer to me as Instructor Reed." (Reed)

"Understood. My name is Sirius. Well then, these children here are..." (Sirius)

—

Once I finished introducing the disciples, Instructor Reed took us to the training ground behind the building. It doesn't differ all that much from the training ground at the academy, with the distinct exception of there being novice adventurers training here alongside students.

We lined up in a corner next to some clay dummies in the shape of a human, likely made with earth magic, and we were given the instructions for the practical skill exam.

"When registering for the Adventurer's Guild, it is necessary for you to display your fighting ability openly. Starting in a moment, you will have

to prove your strength and skill, and I will determine if you belong in the Adventurer's Guild." (Reed)

"How should we display our strength? Should we fight with Instructor Reed?" (Emilia)

"It depends on the situation. To start, I'd like for you to show off the magical or physical talents and weapon skills you described on the forms. If I feel that you are lacking somewhere, I will advise you." (Reed)

"I don't use any weapons, so is it fine for me to use magic exclusively?" (Reese)

"Aah, that's right. This is simply to test you to see if you can fight at all. However, if you are looking for my advice as a veteran, I would say use whatever you have at your disposal, provided you don't cross the line and cause mana exhaustion." (Reed)

"Err... can Aikido be considered a weapon?" (Emilia)

"Aikido? I'm not quite sure what that is, but please feel free to show me later. Well then, let's begin. First is... Reus." (Reed)

"Ouu!" (Reus)

Instructor Reed called out his name while looking at his form. As Reus was moving out into the field, Reed got a good look at his back and called him over.

"... You wrote that you are proficient in swordsmanship, but can you really lift the sword that is strapped to your back?" (Reed)

"That's right. Its name is 'Silver Fang'." (Reus)

"If it's okay, would you let me hold it?" (Reed)

"Sure." (Reus)

It may look light, but the greatsword was actually weighed in at over 40 kg. Reus lifted it with a single hand and passed it to Instructor Reed. To his credit, Reed didn't succumb to the weight of the sword, and while it took a moment, he gradually adjusted to it.

“This is... heavy, but it’s a magnificent sword.” (Reed)

“That is my partner. Grant-Jiichan made it.” (Reus)

“You mean... that Grant!? Hmmm... Certainly, the sword couldn’t be the way it is unless it were made by the best blacksmith. I’m admittedly interested in your companion, but why would you choose to use such a large sword?” (Reed)

“It would be difficult to use Jiichan’s sword technique if I were using a common or light sword. Should I slice the target now?” (Reus)

“Yes, please. I don’t know who apprenticed you, but I’ll have you demonstrate your technique now, if you will.” (Reed)

After receiving his sword back from Instructor Reed, Reus stood in front of the target and took the ‘Hard Break’ style’s stance. Taking a deep breath, Reus swung the sword down towards the target, and... pulverized. It’s completely shattered into tiny pieces.

Adventurers training in the surrounding area and the instructor both stopped to stare at that sight.

“...I’ve made a mistake.” (Reus)

“W-what mistake?” (Reed)

“I planned to make a clean cut, but I mistakenly pulverized it.” (Reus)

‘Hard Break – One Hand Style’ is a technique where you swing the sword with all of your might. It may seem straightforward, but... it’s a technique that is necessary to study thoroughly to use properly. He slipped up while swinging slightly, dispersing the momentum and making the stroke one of brute force, shattering the target instead of cutting it. It would be a sure-kill technique if used on a person, but the result this time was clearly a result of an inexperienced user. Lior would rage if he saw this scene.

Even while fragments were still flying, Reus turned to Instructor Reed to ask for a do-over.

“May I do it one more time? I’ll cut it in half cleanly this time.” (Reus)

“Wait, wait a sec! It’s already fine! I see that you’re strong already! Rather, why do you have such excessive strength!?” (Reed)

“I would feel bad if I stopped at this, and besides, Jii-san would be able to cut the wall behind the target as well.” (Reus)

“I beg of you, stop please! You don’t need to show many any further!” (Reed)

“I would feel hurt if I stopped here, I’ll just do it real quick.” (Reus)

“Stop it, Reus.” (Sirius)

“Ouu!” (Reus)

Reus retreated with just a word of mine, sheathing his sword on his back. Seeing that Reus had somehow withdrawn, Instructor Reed let out a sigh of relief as he jotted things down on some paper.

“I have never met such an absurd student, but... anyway, you pass. If we are talking about the you right now, you could probably defeat a Jya-Ora Snake..” (Reed)

“Oh, a Jya-Ora Snake? I cut one the other day.” (Reus)

“... Next is Emilia. Please demonstrate your fighting aptitude, using some combination of magic or weaponry.” (Reed)

By the way, the Jya-Ora Snake is a type of snake monster that lives in lakes slightly away from Elysion. It has hard scales that resist half-hearted swings of a sword, and it moves in erratic ways, making it a tough monster for even intermediate adventurers to fight.

Back when we had come to Elysion for the first time, the owner of the inn ‘Spring Breeze’s Perch” asked for help getting Jya-Ora Snake meat, so we killed it. Like he said, while we stopped the snake’s movements, Reus cut it in half.

To be an intermediate adventurer that has such a hard time with the monster, and then to have a small child who hadn’t yet become an adventurer say that he has already killed one? Perhaps he pretended to not hear it, but more likely the Instructor had to turn away to save what

was left of his pride after that comment, be it true or not.

“It’s my turn now. Should I attack the next target?” (Emilia)

“Aah. You have written wind magic and knife talent, so it would be helpful if you could display both.” (Reed)

“Understood. Well then… I’m going!” (Emilia)

Emilia threw several throwing knives that she took from her chest at the target, each finding its mark in the joints between limbs on the target. Those would seal the target’s movement if this were a real battle, and then she finished off the target with an [Air Shot] to the chest, destroying it utterly and completely.

Regardless of the mechanism used, the final state of her target was the same as Reus’.

“Will that be alright?” (Emilia)

“…Y-you’ve passed. Next is Reese” (Reed)

There didn’t seem to have an opening to give advice because of Emilia’s quality of performance, and he seemed to prefer not thinking about it any further. Next was Reese’s turn, but she was a bit nervous, so I poked her shoulder to make her relax.

“With Reese’s ability, there will be no problem. It will be alright if you act as you normally would.” (Sirius)

“Y-yes!” (Reese)

She took a deep breath, before aiming her palms at the target. Shooting balls of water from her palms, elementary level [Aqua] spells, she created a water sphere larger than normal to surround the target. Typically, a spell of that level would generate a sphere no larger than a basketball. Her spell, on the other hand, was capable of creating a sphere of water large enough to encompass the entire target.

Swallowing the target entirely, the pressure inside the water sphere was enough to turn the soil into mud. By the time Reese canceled her spell, all that was left of her target was a pile of mud.

“Err… originally, I had planned to keep the water sphere surrounding it until it would have drowned, but since I turned it to mud, I canceled the spell.” (Reese)

“… Though water magic is typically not thought of as an offensive magic, there are indeed ways to use it as such, like what you demonstrated. By the way, what is that Aikido you mentioned earlier?” (Reed)

“I will demonstrate it rather than try to explain with words. Will you assist me, Reus?” (Reese)

“Understood, is it alright if I use punches?” (Reus)

“Please.” (Reese)

Reus threw a punch at Reese, but she quickly grabbed his wrist and swept his legs out from under him, finishing by tossing him onto the ground. Reus immediately stood up, brushing the dust off of himself, no wounds caused by the bout. Reese’s defense was nearly perfect, and she was able to throw another person, who was much heavier than herself, with ease!

The instructor stared at the scene that played out before him, impressed by the techniques that could so easily trip or throw an opponent down, regardless of weight.

“This is Aikido. Throwing by using opponent’s strength, it is a technique that can be used by those who don’t have strength.” (Reese)

“Though it is splendid technique, it seems very difficult. Who on earth taught you this?” (Reed)

“I was taught by Sirius-san here.” (Reese)

“You?” (Reed)

“Yes, that’s right. I myself am colorless, and thus have created Aikido to support myself; with a focus on training and technique instead of simply raw magical power.” (Sirius)

“Is that so… you’re colorless, huh? To create such a splendid technique,

I wonder what kind of hardships you have been through." (Reed)

The instructor looked at me with pity in his eyes because of my lies, but the truth is I haven't really suffered any hardships.

After that, he took a look at the form that I filled in, it seems the receptionist added various things and he was surprised when look at it.

"Age is... thirteen years old. What, the magic tool was broken because of the size of his mana pool!? Although if this is true, him being colorless... is a cruel fate." (Reed)

"I have a question, is that magic tool broken easily?" (Emilia)

"As long as I've been alive, none of those magic tools have been broken unless they were defective. There are stories about magic masters breaking the magic tools, but as a colorless, that is simply cruel." (Reed)

I continuously strive and make an effort to be my best, but I must admit that Rodwell has much more mana than I do, even despite having lived two lives. Even not considering that he is a 'Triple', Rodwell is certainly the superior magic user.

Yet, when I think of this 'magic master', why do I only think of one who lusts over cake?

"And your weapon proficiency... is jujutsu? Do you not use weapons?" (Reed)

"I use them, but since my fighting style changes based on the situation, it is hard to select a single weapon. If I had to choose, most often I use a knife, I guess?" (Sirius)

"Hmm... looking at those three earlier, it seems you are not an ordinary person. I'm sorry, but would you mind having a mock battle with me?" (Reed)

"I don't mind. What are the rules?" (Sirius)

"The victory condition is either getting a fatal blow, or making your opponent concede. I'm not using any weapons, and I'll be going easy on you, but please feel free to go all out against me." (Reed)

—

We took some distance from each other, raising our hands.

Now, I was asked for a mock battle before I realized it, but how should I approach this? Since the purpose is to display Jujitsu, I can't use magic. At the same time, I don't want to reveal too much. I suppose I should end it with a single breath?

I took a low posture and charged towards him, aiming at his feet, but Instructor Reed predicted that and threw his fist to intercept. I gripped his hand, rotated once and threw him in a fashion similar to how Reese had thrown Reus earlier. Surprisingly, despite only seeing the example once, he has already thought of a method to counter it. Rather than resisting the force, he went with it and used the momentum to land on his feet instead of his back. Additionally, he used his strength to keep me from separating from him and prepare for another attack.

As I expected of a veteran adventurer, he's done well. That said, it was a bad idea to not separate from me, you know? Since he didn't separate from me, I decide to twist around.

Fixing his hand and forearm between my legs, his body bent close to me as I pushed his thumb towards his hand. It's a splendid technique to decide a battle. The instructor was agonized over the pain, dropping to the ground and visibly hurt, but I didn't release the technique.

This is copied from the martial arts known as wrestling; it's the 'Arm Bar' technique.

I chose this technique because it gave me an all out advantage. It isn't easy to escape this technique, even with a vast difference in physique between the competitors. Furthermore, it can very easily hurt an amateur if they try to force their way out of the hold, so it is effective at restricting people.

I whisper to Instructor Reed while he lays there with a grimace on his face...

“Will you give up?” (Sirius)

“Uuuhh.. I’ll give up...” (Reed)

With this, all of us successfully registered with the Adventurer’s Guild.

—

After that, we sat in the lobby waiting to receive Adventurer’s Guild Registered Cards... in short, guild cards.

By the way, even though Instructor Reed was defeated by a child, he didn’t mind at all. Rather, he praised the techniques I used and even asked to be taught some of them. There’s no mistaking it, he’s a good person for not judging me poorly for being a colorless, even with all of the time he has spent here. I’d like to stay on good terms with such a person.

Since it takes a while for the cards to be prepared, the receptionist gave me an explanation of various functions within the guild and applications of the guild card, while we waited.

“There is special magic formation drawn on the guild card. First, you have to drop a bit of blood on the magic formation. After doing so, the card will attune itself to your mana, thus being bound to you. It also serves as a form of identification for this reason.” (Receptionist)

After being told various things, I can summarize it as below;

Our guild cards can be used everywhere, since branches of the Adventurer’s Guild exist all over the world.

There is a ranking system with the cards, that you are entered into the moment you receive yours. Achievements regarding subjugation quests and completing tasks will be registered by the card, allowing you to earn points and advance your rank. So, while a person may be perceived as a beginner adventure based on any number of criteria, the guild card has it’s own specific system to determine experience. Those who have just registered are given the tenth rank, and are considered beginner adventurers. Intermediate status begins from the sixth rank onwards, and

the pinnacle is the first rank. Finally, your rank is what determines the requests you are allowed to take on.

"Thank you for waiting. The card is ready, so please put a little bit of your blood on the card to register it to you personally." (Receptionist)

Although the card is made from wood, it is flexible and doesn't seem to break easily. Right now the card is made from wood, but as you rank up the material supposedly changes. I'm looking forward to seeing it.

When we dropped blood on the card as instructed, the magic formation on the card glittered as the registration process was finalized.

"Congratulations. With this, your registration process is complete. Since you will be charged several silver coins for a card reissue, please be careful not to lose it." (Receptionist)

"Understood. Then, here are the silver coins for cards." (Sirius)

I took four silver coins from the chest, and handed it over to the receptionist. Reese wanted to cover it herself, but I told her to think of it as a willing expense for my pupils, and she gave in.

The receptionist took the silver coins, putting them away under the desk. Then, she looked back at us with a serious expression.

"Hmmm... some personal advice. Lately I've been hearing rumors of new adventurers disappearing unnaturally. You all, please be careful." (Receptionist)

I see, was that the cause of the gloomy feelings that I'd seen when we said we wanted to register? She probably saw off many newcomers, and then would hear later that they never returned.

After giving advice, the receptionist went back to her usual smile and showed us how to find requests for newcomers like us.

We haven't run into trouble with money yet, and since we aren't in any hurry to raise our rank, we left immediately. I had already made plans to run to Galgan Company after we finished with our registration, so we started to head there.

—

While walking the downtown, the disciples seemed happy looking at the guild card. It's normal for the siblings, but for Reese of all people to be this excited. She yearns to be an adventurer because of her mother, but I think there may be more to it than that.

"You seem really happy, Reese-ane." (Reus)

"Everyone is happy, but with Reese's mother having been an adventurer too, I'm sure Reese is more excited than most." (Sirius)

"It's true that I am happy because I was able to become an adventurer like Kaa-san, it's true. However, I feel like a part of me is also happy for becoming independent, probably?" (Reese)

"Isn't Reese-ane another person? Like you are called as 'Blue Saintess'." (Reus)

As the revolution earlier, Reese was not only fighting, but healing other people. More than a hundred people were appearing in front of her in need of medical attention, but she was able to handle at least half of them alone. In doing so, she was using vast amounts of mana, yet she still kept a fast pace. Furthermore, the entire time she kept a calm and passive attitude that charmed many of those she cared for.

That was spread around the school, and before she knew it she had acquired the title of 'Blue Saintess'. Needless to say, the person herself was embarrassed about the whole ordeal and in complete denial.

"Th-they called me that voluntarily! I've registered at the Adventurer's Guild and become independent through my own hard work!" (Reese)

"You've worked hard, Reese. When you started training with us, Sirius-sama and us were there for you no matter how many times you fell." (Emilia)

"Yeah, I worked hard! It's been four years since then... so fast." (Reese)

She squinted at the sky, deep in thought.

We haven't heard anything about it, and Reese has yet to mention it, but... I wonder what her plans are for after graduation?

She disliked being in Elysion previously, but now she has reconciled with her father, and has made a reputation for herself as an excellent healer. Furthermore, she has her sister Princess Lifell here, and as royalty there is certainly no requirement for her to travel.

She would definitely come with me if I, her love interest, were to invite her. I can't help but feel that if she only came for that reason though, there would definitely be unpleasant feelings remaining.

This is a decision that she will have to make of her own accord, and I will support whichever decision she makes.

—

One year until graduation.

I'll put Reese's problem aside for now, but our travel plans are progressing well.

Intermission 2: The Place where We Should Return

– Emilia –

Few days after enrolling at the Adventurer's Guild, we, the siblings, and Reese gathered at 'Spring Breeze's Perch' Inn.

Those two are here because I invited them but since this is a secret meeting, our master, Sirius-sama, is not around at the moment.

The reason is because our discussion from now on is a secret from Sirius-sama. I feel bad for having a secret from that person but we were all agreeing because it will bring great things for him.

"Thank you so much for lending us this place, Laura-san." (Emilia)

"I don't really mind but it's rare for you guys to not be around Sirius-kun." (Laura)

"I also think the same. It is unusual for Nee-chan to leave Aniki." (Reus)

When I thanked the 'Spring Breeze's Perch' landlady for preparing tea, Reus said he was surprised about me.

Good grief, what a rude younger brother. It's true I love Sirius-sama but I don't have a plan to become a woman who annoys her master and follows him persistently. Sirius-sama also has time he wants to be alone so I will leave him simply by reading the mood.

That's right, as a servant for that person, it is easy...easy... aah, I want to see him!

"Ne...Nee-chan..." (Reus)

"Hey Emilia! Why are you strangling Reus' neck? Pull yourself together!" (Reese)

"Haa!?" (Emilia)

It's no good, not good. Since I want to see him if I think about him, let's

stop here. I already miss Sirius-sama but I must act calmly as an attendant for that person. I released Reus, I stroked his head and apologized.

"Gohoo... why can't I surpass Nee-chan?" (Reus)

"Because I'm your sister. Now, the reason I gather you guys is none other than this. Frankly, I was thinking to express our gratitude to Sirius-sama who has been taking care of us like always," (Emilia)

That's right, we are really protected by Sirius-sama. Even looking at one meal, it's not only with meat but he also mixed it with vegetables because he worries about our health but it makes us ignorant. What should we give to that person to repay his favor?

I thought of giving him my first time to repay his favor but... he is not going to accept it. Although Erina-san said 'to proactively appeal to a man when he is ready at certain age... isn't it weird? Although I want to make him satisfied with this big chest...

No, it's not something to be impatient. She said it seems there will be a time when a man will be interested in a woman so it's going to be a 'match' from now on.

As a matter of offering my body, that will be sooner or later. So, let's think about our favor for this situation now.

"We have registered in the guild and we earned money. Because of that, I am thinking about what kind of present too get Sirius-sama by using our income... what do you think?" (Emilia)

"That's a good question! I'll work hard on it!" (Reus)

"Yeah, Sirius-san has been helping me so much so whatever it is, I want to repay his kindness." (Reese)

I didn't think they would object but above all, they agreed to it.

By the way, Sirius-sama is currently having business with Zack-san in the Galgan Company. I didn't hear the details but he said something about ordering necessary things for after our graduation.

Today, we got permission to spend our time freely. Now it's morning and I was told to return home by dinner. So, we're going to earn money until evening to prepare our gratitude.

"Say Emilia. What's up with your feelings now? You were like usual until yesterday, right?" (Reese)

"By becoming an adventurer, to earn an income is one step into adulthood and as a servant for that person, I plan to embrace that. At first, I'll will start with such feelings. And in the end, I aim to be a servant like Erina-san who taught me." (Emilia)

"Erina-san was a wonderful person." (Reus)

"Was she the one who taught you how to be a servant's? Was she wonderful?" (Reese)

"Yes, she was. Although it was a short time, I was taught various things by that person." (Emilia)

I think Erina-san is a perfect model of a servant.

She grasped the time not to disturb when Sirius-sama was working, and she flawlessly served her master when he needed something necessary without being told. I haven't reached that stage yet but I want to be like that as a servant for that person.

But the top priority right now is our gratitude too Sirius-sama.

"Well, I've already told my aim, so let's move soon. I have already received two requests from the guild." (Emilia)

"You move really fast, Nee-chan. Even if it's not only for today in particular, shouldn't we slowly earn our income?" (Reus)

"I don't want to be away from Sirius-sama many different times." (Emilia)

"I see!" (Reus)

"I understand! No... I don't understand though." (Reese)

My aim is to be Sirius-sama personal care. That's why I can't be away

from him a lot of times.

Anyhow, since those two agreed, I took out two pieces of paper with requests and put it on the table. The requests are to survey the Goblin nest and to pick water crystal flowers at Jya-O lake which is a slight distance away from Elysion. Those two picked it up and confirmed it but it seemed they had questions because they were looking here.

"It's a survey not subjugation and picking requests. The rewards are somewhere from several copper coins to one silver coin huh..." (Reus)

"Yeah. I'm not sure what to prepare for Sirius-san but I wonder if this would be enough. Although I think it's not necessary to rely on the things that require money but if possible, I want to prepare something good." (Reese)

"These were only for those who have just registered. However, the request is only for its outward appearance." (Emilia)

That's right. After all, the most important thing of the requests is the place. For that, we finished preparing various things.

"We're going to survey the Goblin's nest. I've heard from the receptionist say that we should run if we are attacked but they didn't say anything about defeating it. And, it isn't stated in the written request." (Emilia)

"In short, what are we going to do, Nee-chan?" (Reus)

"Reus, we are investigating it as an excuse but we are going to annihilate them. Incidentally, I secured the selling off completely." (Emilia)

"Understood!" (Reus)

"Ehh!? Is it not... dangerous?" (Reese)

Reese was surprised for an instant but she realized that there won't be a problem because she has watched Reus defeat goblins easily many times.

The guild may scold us because we're doing this as we please but the enemies are goblins that hunt livestock and think nothing but

impregnating woman. We won't be scolded if we defeat the enemy of woman and our evaluation may improve.

So, if we check their nest in order to investigate and then we should report that we found the nest and annihilated them. Taking this opportunity, our rank may not only go up but we earn an income too. It's like killing two birds with one stone.

"If you find the nest, just 'thoughtlessly' attack it." (Emilia)

"Then it will be a 'thoughtless' annihilation huh." (Reus)

"That is not being' thoughtless', you know..." (Reese)

"Yes, these are the box lunch and drinks. When you're done, let's gather back here." (Emilia)

"Understood, Nee-chan. I'll go right away." (Reus)

"Come back before evening. Take care." (Emilia)

"T-take care..." (Reese)

Reus went off after preparing his stuff. It seems Reus will arrive to where the nest is before noon. Sirius-sama said that it will only take about one hour if it's Reus.

Next is our turn. The content of the request paper is the delivery of water crystal flowers but of course that's not only it.

"If Reus is going to annihilate goblins, is there something about this request?" (Reese)

"Of course. You know what type of habitat is at Jya-O lake, right?" (Emilia)

"It's because of... Jya-Ora Snake right? That means..." (Reese)

"It's as Reese expected. While we gather the water crystal flower, we just 'thoughtlessly' hunt the Jya-Ora Snake and sell the raw materials." (Emilia)

"Don't say 'thoughtlessly'! This is not the time to say it." (Reese)

If I don't say 'thoughtlessly', what should I say then? We are like

beginner adventurers who are rising up (the ranks) and even intermediate adventurers were said to have a hard fight against that monster. So, I certainly can't stop saying that.

"But you know, it's good if we kill it but... how should we hold the raw materials and bring it back? Since the meat and fangs are highly demanded, won't it get heavy?" (Reese)

"I asked Zack-san to prepare a carriage for that reason. If I explain it for Sirius-sama's purpose, he will rent it for cheap." (Emilia)

"Won't that be discovered by Sirius-san?" (Reese)

"I asked him to make it a secret and since the receipt of payment is not from the Galgan Company, it will be alright. Time is precious, so shall we go at once?" (Emilia)

"Though I'm worried about various things but I got it. If I think of this as gratitude for Sirius-san, I'll close my eyes on the details." (Reese)

Reese was also prepared and then we decided to go to Jya-O lake immediately.

—

We went to the horse carriage stand-by station that is near to the entry gate of Elysion, we handed the note we received from Zack-san and borrowed the carriage. The carriage is with one horse, has small hood that can only fit two people, but it's good enough because we're not going for a long distance. As expected of Zack-san, he prepared it nicely.

We departed and I sat at the coachman's seat and Reese looked here puzzled.

"Can Emilia handle horses?" (Reese)

"Although this is my first time, I know how to do it." (Emilia)

I was taught by Zack-san when we went to Elysion. That time was a carriage with two horses but this time it is only with one horse. If we're careful, I can manage it somehow.

"Isn't better to employ a coachman?" (Reese)

“It costs us more money if I do that. Besides, don’t worry because there’s only one horse.” (Emilia)

“... I am somewhat uneasy but I guess it can’t be helped.” (Reese)

After I convinced Reese, we went off.

—

We handed our guild card and request papers to gatekeeper at the entrance of walls that surround Elysion, and then we went outside.

Which reminds me, this is the first time going out of town without Sirius-sama. If this was in the olden days, I would would have been scared and never do it but now, I don’t think it’s scary. This is also because of training from Sirius-sama and it contributes to the fact that I learned the technique to survive outside. We must succeed in this request regardless so that we can earn a lot of money and repay his kindness.

There is some distance to Jya-O lake, the carriage keeps advancing while gaining a little speed. The weather is clear too and while basking in the sun, Reese came over next to me while I held the rein.

“Are you alright with handling the horse?” (Reese)

“There’s no problem. It’s docile and this good child follows orders obediently.” (Emilia)

“Instead of just riding this, will you teach me how to handle horse?” (Reese)

“Sure. First is pulling the rein...” (Emilia)

After that, while teaching her how to handle the horse, we’re heading to Jya-O lake.

—

We ran the carriage for an hour while alternating coachman and then we finally arrived at Jya-O lake.

It is said that monsters will gather easily at places where there's water but since the Jya-Ora snake, high ranking monster, lives in Jya-O lake surroundings, there are few other monsters here. Since the horse is unlikely to be attacked, we tied the horse to tree slightly away from the lake and finished our preparations.

First of all, let's begin by picking up water crystal flowers as per the original request.

"The request requires twenty water crystal flowers, right?" (Reese)

"That is written in request paper but we can buy it if they are being sold." (Emilia)

Water crystal flower is a flower that blooms on clear water. The features of the flower's petals are that they're crystal clear. Although it's a small flower, it is a flower that can be used as antipyretic and restorative medicine. Since it grows in shallow places, I can gather it even from the land.

It is not that precious and the unit price is cheap but Sirius-sama thought even dust when piled up can mean something.

According to the plan, we searched for the flower after confirming Jya-Ora Snakes was not around but I would rather they find us so we moved without minding about it.

We continued gathering the flowers and then we perceived an unusual event when we got to 30th.

"Eh? There is no other monster too." (Reese)

According to Reese, the one monster that drank water in slight distant away from us had disappeared. Could it be...

"It seems something has come." (Emilia)

"How are we going to fight?" (Reese)

"Since today we have two, let's go with Reese disturbing it and I will bring it down." (Emilia)

"Roger. The spirits are lively since this is a lake area so I'm prepared."

(Reese)

We stopped gathering and carry the water crystal flowers quickly to the carriage. When we're about done with that, a large shadow rose from the lake and Jya-Ora Snake appeared along with spray of water.

The big snake's whole body is covered with yellow scales and there are countless fangs on its mouth. Is the length probably around five meters? This big guys size is twice the normal so I guess it just became an adult.

Whether it noticed us or not, its sharp eyes looked towards our direction. Then, that big body got out from the lake and drew closer to us. Normally, we should escape but... Reese and I couldn't separate our eyes from that big body while swallowing saliva.

"Unajuu..." (Emilia) (TLN: It's a broiled eel served over rice in two separate stacked boxes)

"Kabayaki would be delicious too..." (Reese) (TLN from Wiki: Kabayaki is a preparation of fish or snake in this novel where the snake is split down the back, gutted and boned, butterflied, cut into square fillets, skewered, dipped in a sweet soy sauce-based sauce before being broiled on a grill.)

When we ate Jya-Ora Snake meat for the first time in 'Spring Breeze's Perch' inn, Sirius-sama said it was like Unagi.

Shortly after that, Sirius-sama obtained Jya-Ora Snake's meat and made a new dish from it. It is black, grilled and has a deep flavor, the dish that combines rice and Unajuu together is a superb dish.

I want to eat it... again. Looking at the Jya-Ora Snake, we decided to hunt it no matter what it takes.

"Although the meat is sold at a high price..." (Reese)

"I will secure a little for sure." (Emilia)

Our hearts became one, now that a hunting trophy is before us, we become the predator. The Jya-Ora Snake that drew closer faltered an instant but maybe it's just our imagination.

I took throwing knives while Reese talked to the spirits and prepared her magic.

“Let’s do this!” (Emilia)

“Please! [Aqua Pillar]” (Reese)

And the battle ended in the blink of an eye.

To be specific, its movement was obstructed by numerous [Aqua Pillars] and I cut it’s neck by using [Air Slash]. That’s the end of it. The original [Air Slash] will be repelled by the scales but mine was thin and sharp to the point it will hurt if someone touches it. I was taught by Sirius-sama to imagine sharp wind.

And the completed result was an unusually sharp and beautiful cut displayed. If that didn’t work, we planned to use Reese’s [Aqua Cutter] but it seemed that it wasn’t necessary.

“Now, shall we tear off the scales and fangs while we wait for the blood to be drained out?” (Emilia)

“That’s right. The eyeball is proof of subjugating the snakes so it can be sold with a high price, right?” (Reese)

As Reese said that, she stabed a work knife on its head without hesitation.

Reese is a gentle child who doesn’t want to hurt people but when it comes to stripping and cooking monster meat, she doesn’t hesitate too much. Perhaps, it is because of her mom was an adventurer but she really had no trouble to scoop out the eyeball. After that, she held up the eyeball that can look at the sun like a crystal and nodded in satisfaction.

If it’s like this, we seem to do well as adventurers. I stripped off the tusks and scales while thinking so.

“I secured both eyeballs.” (Reese)

“Just stack it up on the tusks and fangs. Next is the meat. Although we may not completely drain all the blood, let’s secure it too.” (Emilia)

In fact, I wanted to hang it to drain the blood but it’s impossible since

Reus, who's in charge of having strength, was not here. Besides, if we take too much time, other monster will appear because they were tempted by the smell of the blood. Then, we'll separate it for sales purposes and share it with [Spring Breeze's Perch] inn. We secured a portion for us to eat and put the rest into the carriage.

Although we hunted as gratitude towards Sirius-sama, isn't it weird to hand it to him and make him cook it, but Sirius-sama dishes are the best but... that is another matter.

—

We headed back to the town after loading the goods into the carriage.

The gatekeeper and the Adventurer Guild were surprised but they somehow bought the raw materials while we reported our accomplishments of the water crystal flower request.

Maybe because Reese and I hunted Jya-Ora Snake, our guild ranks rose. That promotion is not possible in only few days after registering but Instructor Reed who knows our ability was there, our rank rose from tenth to eighth rank.

We returned the carriage and when we went to [Spring Breeze's Perch] inn again, it's already turned just before dusk. There was no other way to make it earlier because moving the loads took most of our time and I was able to make it before dusk because I was in hurry.

"Oh, welcome back. You have returned safely." (Laura)

"I'm back. By the way, has Reus returned back?" (Emilia)

"He still hasn't returned yet. I would know if he has and I don't think I overlooked him." (Laura)

"Is that so? Ah, I would like to share this meat as a gift. Please accept it as thanks for lending me the place." (Emilia)

I handed dozens of kilos of meat that I got to Laura-san. The lump of meat was not processed yet but she seemed to notice immediately since

it's the meat used for the main dish of [Spring Breeze's Perch] Inn.

"Is this... alright? If I am going to buy this, it will be one gold coin, you know?" (Laura)

"I don't mind. Because we already secured our portions and sold most parts. It will be hard for us to sell if you return the meat to us." (Emilia)

"Is that so? But I'll buy it properly from you, not receive it as a gift. I will prepare the money so please wait at the dining table." (Laura)

As what she said, we returned to the table which we had our morning meeting.

I am free now since Reus hasn't returned so shall I discuss about the calculation of money and what to buy with Reese?

"Yeah and... we have three gold coins and twelve silver coins in total. What should we buy then?" (Emilia)

"I still can't believe I've made so much money in a day. With this, we can buy various things." (Reese)

"Hey you guys, don't spread the money (on the table) just like that!" (Laura)

While we were still thinking, Laura-san scolded us with money in her hand. She's right, it will be dinner time soon and the number of customer will be increasing so if they see children like us holding lots of money, there will enemies with bad manners that might come out.

"I'm sorry. I was a bit careless." (Emilia)

"It's all good if you understand it. Here you go, the price for the meat. By the way, have you eaten dinner?" (Laura)

"Not yet but I am going to return and have dinner together with Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"Is that so? I don't mind but if you guys are waiting until Reus come back, I should at least prepare some drinks. We are really saved because our meat stock was low." (Laura)

I had Laura prepare squeezed fruit juice and kept waiting for Reus while discussing what we should buy.

—

After one hour... it would be bad if we didn't return soon but Reus has finally returned. There was blood here and there on his body but he was laughing contently. I guess all of that was goblins' blood.

"I'm back, Nee-chan! Reese-ane!" (Reus)

"Welcome back Reus. Although you are unusually late, are you alright?" (Emilia)

"Welcome back. Though there are bloodstains, you are not injured, right?" (Reese)

"Ou! I'm alright because I'm not injured at all. And even though I'm late, it's because of lots of things were going on, I earned some money as well." (Reus)

Reus casually put a pouch on the table but it seemed that the pouch was unusually swelled and packed with lots of money. I thought it would be good for him to earn several silver coins from the quest reward and by selling off the raw materials but looking at that amount, I guess the goblin's nest was big. Reus also worked hard.

Reus sat down and I gave my juice to him. And then, I checked the content of the pouch. The contents were stone coins, silver coins and several gold coins.... Ehhh!?

"What is it Emilia? Is it too much?" (Reese)

"... Even if I look just a bit, I think there are twenty gold coins." (Emilia)

"Ehh!?" (Reese)

What on earth did my younger brother do? With such a large amount of money, no matter how many goblins you kill, will you obtain that amount? No, goblin's raw material is cheap and it costs no more than stone coins and I probably won't make this much money even if I strip

snakes for half a day.

That means, there should be another factor.

“Reus.” (Emilia)

“What is Nee-chan? What’s with that angry look?” (Reus)

“Tell me what happened after you left here. It’s no good if you hide it.” (Emilia)

“O, ou! Err, after I left the town…” (Reus)

Since Reus keep running everyday with weights on, he seemed to be continuously running without taking any breaks until he reached where the nest was located. And when he was about to arrive the aimed forest soon, he found a carriage that was running hastily.

“When I thought it was strange for them to be in hurry, they were chased by robbers. After I confirmed they were enemies, I sent all of them flying. There was a noble couple in the carriage but they weren’t able to talk because they were in panic so I listened to their beautiful Onee-san escort about their situation.” (TLN: The Onee-san is just an escort, not family related with the nobles.)

Reus rarely compliments so I guess he was right when saying she was a beautiful woman. He heard the situation where they were suddenly attacked by a group of goblins a little while ago and somehow managed to escape. However, the noble’s only daughter and the swordsman escort’s younger sister were kidnapped.

Those goblins were probably coming from the nest of the request. In order to rescue them fast, they went back to the town in a hurry and then they were attacked by robbers, and Reus intervened on them. They were extremely unlucky to be attacked twice.

The noble couple and the female escort begged Reus to rescue them but Reus, who prioritizes more on earning income and for Sirius-sama’s sake, easily refused them.

“That is impossible since I have to enter the goblin’s nest

‘thoughtlessly’’... that’s what I told to refuse them.” (Reus)

“It is not pointless if you say ‘thoughtlessly’.” (Emilia)

“That is not the problem. But... can you say that to refuse them?” (Reese)

At least Reus planned to refuse them. If those who didn’t know him looked at the situation, won’t they think of him as a cool person? If judging by the book, Reus looks like a protagonist in tales.

After that, he found the nest immediately and he thought it was strange since there was almost no one on lookout. Then he heard a woman’s scream.

“I charged in since I could hear voices from the nest, the two Onee-sans were surrounded and held down by the goblins in the inner section. I thought this is what Aniki said about them kidnapping people to multiply so I killed the goblin that was closest to the Onee-san at once.” (Reus)

He thought it would be the best to save those two women. After that, Reus acted violently in the goblins’ nest and annihilated them in no time.

“By the way Reus, how many goblins were there?” (Emilia)

“Hmmm~... I stopped counting after fifty.” (Reus)

A hundred is probably easy for Reus now but it’s all good to kill it since their number was big and they might attack women in the meantime.

After Reus successfully annihilated them, he tore off the horns from goblins’ corpses.

...and left the two women unattended.

“...To leave women who were about to attacked just like that, how on earth can you do that?” (Emilia)

I made a fist and grasped Reus’ shoulder. For him to neglect women... it seems there is a need to educate this child.

“B-but! There was no reaction no matter how many times I called them and I didn’t want to waste time.” (Reus)

“Still, you are a boy and you should stay there until they calm down. If it’s from Sirius-san, he will also say it’s necessary to pay attention even to small details.” (Reese)

“A-alright!” (Reus)

The two women probably calmed down after short while and they might want to say thanks to Reus and offered themselves to help Reus tearing of goblin’s horns. At that moment, I realized something snapped.

After that, the carriage chased after Reus and met him. They said they were very thankful for the safety of the daughter and the younger sister.

“Then they asked what kind of rewards they should give since their daughter is in good hands. So, I said money or something like that.” (Reus)

...I felt like something else was broken again. This time, it is completely broken.

Then he got gold coins from the noble and escorted them along the highway and when they got close to the town, he realized it was almost dusk. So he ran off from the carriage and returned to the town.

Once he returned, he immediately went to report for the quest reward but he was in considerable trouble since rather than investigating, he reported the annihilation of the goblins. Finally, since he held a lot of horns that has become the treatment of request by the recommendation for him together with us from Instructor Reed. So he got a temporary bonus and his rank raised by one.

“That means... I don’t have plan to spend the money now so I leave everything to Nee-chan.” (Reus)

“...Sure, thanks.” (Emilia)

And the bag that is in front of us includes that and the money from selling the raw materials.

I want to praise him for earning this amount in half day but... why don’t I feel like doing it?

Since I don't understand and there's unpleasant feelings remaining, let's report this to Sirius-sama.

—

And then, with the money we collected, we went to the famous high quality decoration shop in the town.

The stores lined up accessories that cost at least ten gold coins. Reese and I searched together for an accessory for Sirius-sama. By the way, Reus is staying outside because he got dirty with bloodstains.

We had trouble choosing but when we finally decided, the sky has become dark and our tummy started to grumble. It's natural because this is the usual time to prepare dinner. Leaving that aside, I have to hurry back home or I will go against Sirius-sama instruction to come back before dinner. No, before saying that, I actually want to see Sirius-sama soon.

We hurried home and when we turned at the alley... I noticed a suspicious presence.

Did those two noticed it too, since they got ready for battle. Then, three men stood before us and and we were surrounded by another two at our rear.

"I heard from the talk that the newcomers this time is considerably excellent." (??)

"Yeah. We can get a good price." (??)

"...What kind of business do you have with us?" (Emilia)

Although it feels unpleasant from those laughing men, it's courtesy to have a conversation first. Their capabilities were known from how poorly they concealed their presence but shall I prepare so we won't be suddenly ambushed because of our carelessness?

"What, we just came to protect newcomer adventurers." (??)

"We came to offer you a job that consists of beginner adventurers." (??)

“No, thanks. Since we are in hurry, can you let us through?” (Emilia)

“Yeah, get out of our way quickly.” (Reus)

Whether Reus is in hurry or not, he also becomes displeased. But I am more displeased. We’ll be late to go back to Sirius-sama because we mind you guys.

“Just wait. If you work with us, you’ll get a lot of money, you know?” (??)

“That’s right, we are just about to collect our money. Hey, a slave won’t need money, right?” (??)

“...Is that so? Are you guys criminals?” (Emilia)

On the day we enrolled in Adventurer Guild, I remembered what the female receptionist said.

“Hmmm... this is just my personal advice but I often hear recently that newcomers don’t return back unnaturally. You guys too, please be careful.” (Receptionist)

When I heard the details, they said a young newcomer is most likely to be missing. I heard a lot that a beginner adventurer usually has no place to return. Furthermore, the investigation towards the missing beginner is usually very ignorant because they are assumed to be attacked by outside monsters.

I noticed something after hearing there talks so I guess that talk is about the men who appeared before us.

“What are we going to do, Nee-chan?” (Reus)

“Haven’t you heard about beginner adventurers went missing? They were kidnapped by these guys and sold as slaves.” (Emilia)

“What!?” (Reus)

Reus’ anger reached the peak when he heard about slaves. I am angry too but there is a chance it might be due to something else. I stand by while raising my mana and give indication for Reus to wait through my eyes.

“For noticing how many guys earlier, you Ojou-chan are the earliest.” (??)

“If you realize about it, it’s impossible to refuse us. If you follow obediently, there won’t be any pointless injuries, right?” (??)

“I don’t want to become slave and I have no trouble with money so I refuse.” (Emilia)

“Haa!? There is no reason to get into trouble… For young guys like you to become adventurers, you will suffer in living and have no place to go home!” (??)

“Therefore, we are here to eliminate those problems. You will get stable work as a slave and we get our money. So both of us will get profit.” (??)

…This became a one-sided talk. Anyhow, since they are committed, it’s alright to recognize them completely as enemies.

I looked to confirm Reese condition before fighting them but she appeared unusually angry. She would be scared in the olden days but now she has really become stronger.

“Reese, there will be blood from now so… I recommend you to close your eyes.” (Emilia)

“No, it’s alright. I must get used to it and that’s because I can’t forgive these bunch.” (Reese)

“Yeah, you’re so reliable Reese. Well then, I leave the rear to you.” (Emilia)

“Leave it to me.” (Reese)

We who were trained together under Sirius-sama, with just one word… no, it’s possible to understand each other only by our eyes. We already arranged to our respective targets.

“What are you confused about in this talk? It’s necessary to train you even after selling you.” (??)

“Reus.” (Emilia)

“What is it, Nee-chan?” (Reus)

“Go ahead.” (Emilia)

“Ouu!” (Reus)

When Reus took steps and wielded his sword, the man’s arm flew in the air.

Subsequently, my [Air Slash] cut the arms of two men and Reese’s [Aqua Bullet] hit the two at the rear.

I will put words for those men who are screaming. Sirius-sama, I will use the wise remarks that you’ve said.

“How do you feel when you as a hunter, have become the hunted?” (Emilia)

—

We didn’t kill those men, we tied them up and delivered them to the Adventurers Guild.

They either lost their arms or got hit on the stomach so they can’t eat. We had no problem because it’s legitimate self-defense.

The interrogation for the kidnapping situation of the newcomers was entrusted to the guild and we were dismissed after we told what we heard from those men. While we got the words of appreciation from various people, the receptionist who was in charge with our registration talked to us while smiling.

“Thank you. Thanks to you guys, this case has been completely solved. And because of that, our anxiety can get better and we are really saved.” (Receptionist)

“It’s just a simple outcome.” (Emilia)

“Huhu…so humble. Leaving that aside, aren’t you hungry? Since it won’t be a problem to take an away meal and it’s on the guild, you may eat anything.” (Receptionist)

“I’m already starving.” (Reus)

“Me too. The outside is already dark so it’s natural.” (Emilia)

“Yeah, my tummy too—...” (Reese)

Our starving tummy for Sirius-sama’s dinner...

And outside is completely night.

...And that means?

“““Aahhhhh—-!?””” (Emilia/Reus/Reese)

—

We ran with every effort. We’re running desperately with speed that can’t be compared to our training.

The outside is already pitch-black and the time for dinner had passed already. Although it can be said that we were involved with a case, my chest tightens because I couldn’t abide too Sirius-sama’s instruction.

But I have no time to lament. Now, I want to return even if it is slightly earlier and apologize to Sirius-sama.

“I see it, Nee-chan!” (Reus)

“Yeah...As expected...I’m about to reach my limit...” (Reese)

“Don’t give up, Reese. Just a little bit more...” (Emilia)

When we saw the Diamond Cottage, we slowly reduce our speed. We fixed our breathing and while I thought how we should face Sirius-sama, that had also ended in futility.

Because...Sirius-sama was waiting in front of the entrance and was waiting for us.

“Err...I’m back...Sirius-sama.” (Emilia)

“...” (Sirius)

We lined up before Sirius-sama who was crossing his arms at the entrance. But Sirius-sama didn’t say anything. He looked at us without

any expression.

I haven't see Sirius-sama with such expression. I don't know whether he is angry but that makes me cry unintentionally.

"Err... Sirius-sama?" (Emilia)

"... What is it?" (Sirius)

"Are you angry? Because we were late..." (Emilia)

"...May I hear the reason?" (Sirius)

I explained what happened today without hiding anything. For Sirius-sama's sake, we earned money, went outside to hunt monsters, and ended with the punishment of the men who target newcomers. I told him everything.

I finished talking while Reese and Reus added their explanation midway, then we waited for Sirius-sama's words.

"...Hmmph!" (Sirius)

""Ouchh!"" (Emilia/Reus/Reese)

Sirius-sama's answer was a fist. Although there was one fist, the heads of three of us were hit almost simultaneously. Sirius-sama's expression turn 180 degree as he made his usual gentle watching-over-us smile to us who were dumbfounded.

"Good grief, what hopeless disciples." (Sirius)

"Are you not... angry?" (Emilia)

"Angry? Why would I be angry when you work hard for my sake? The hit just now is because you made me worried." (Sirius)

"You were worried, Aniki?" (Reus)

"Isn't it obvious!? If I still couldn't find you through [Search] in one more hour, I was going to look for you guys." (Sirius)

"Is that so? You were...worried." (Emilia)

Sirius-sama's hit just now was considerably painful. But... I'm happy.

Sirius-sama is completely like a father and mother, the thought of him scolding us earnestly make me happy.

The two beside me also have same thoughts. While enduring pain, they were delighted. I also have the same expression for sure.

"...Why are you smiling even though you guys got scolded?" (Sirius)

"...It's nothing. But Sirius-sama, I'm truly sorry for make you worried." (Emilia)

"Aniki, I'm sorry!" (Reus)

"I'm sorry, Sirius-san." (Reese)

"It's good if you understand. Besides, when I think about you guys, all of you have become adventurers and grown up. In fact, it will be hopeless if you always be by my side." (Sirius)

"No, we're not going to leave Sirius-sama's side!" (Emilia)

"Me too, Aniki!" (Reus)

"Even if I become adult...I want to be by your side." (Emilia)

No matter how big I become and even if I have strength to stand alone, I have no plan to leave Sirius-sama's side. It's not because I'll be lonely but it's because I swore to the moon that I'll keep supporting Sirius-sama.

Sirius-sama had a wry smile listening to our words, then he turned his back and opened the door to Diamond Cottage.

"Anyhow, shall we have dinner? Aren't you guys hungry?" (Sirius)

"Yeah, I'm hungry." (Emilia)

"Me too. Today, I was busy making stew. I will warm it right away." (Sirius)

"Say... Could have Sirius-san not eaten yet?" (Reese)

"Yeah. Anyway, I know that you didn't come home but have you had something earlier?" (Sirius)

It's natural for Sirius-sama to tell us straight out, he went into Diamond

Cottage and called us.

“Hey, how long are you guys going to stand there, come on in. It’s going to be cold soon.” (Sirius)

Like what those men said that most young people who become adventurers have no place to go home and it’s not entirely incorrect.

As for Reus and I, our hometown was destroyed by monsters and our mother and father died. So, what hose men said also applied to us.

But now... the place where we have a place where we should go back home.

Because the place where I belong is by Sirius-sama’s side.

“““I’m home.”””” (Emilia/Reus/Reese)

“Welcome home.” (Sirius)

—

After we finished having dinner, I cleaned up the dishes together with Reese and then I sat down at the table while taking a breath.

I’m remembering that stew. Every one of Sirius-sama dishes is very delicious but the stew that was made today had a somewhat strong flavor and it was really delicious.

If the stew is eaten together with a bun, it is said that the strong flavor... will make new taste come out. Aah... it’s like I’m being trained more and more not to live without that person. No, it isn’t unpleasant feeling but rather it gives a huge impact.

“Emilia...Emilia!” (Reese)

“Haa!? W-what is it Reese?” (Emilia)

“I understand the stew was delicious but it’s very.... and I understand. Hand that to him.” (Reese)

It’s not good, I shouldn’t forget the main reason for today.

Reese is also charmed with the stew but she is calmer than me. Getting back to reality, I prepared the present that we bought and three of us lined up in front of Sirius-sama who sat on the sofa reading a book.

“Sirius-sama, may I have a little of your time?” (Emilia)

“Sure, what is it?” (Sirius)

“Although we have talked about this earlier, this is a present from us. Please receive it.” (Emilia)

“Just for Aniki, we worked hard and bought it with our income.” (Reus)

“This is a small gratitude for always taking care of us of all time.” (Reese)

“You guys... Thanks and I accept it gratefully.” (Sirius)

Although we’ve been found out, Sirius-sama was smiling and received the present.

The content is a pendant decorated with blue magic stone. Since Sirius-sama prefers simple and practical things, we chose the pendant to match his preference.

There is a magic formation of recovery magic on the magic stone and if it’s poured with mana, a recovery magic will be invoked. Although Sirius-sama is not necessarily needing that, it is our wish for his safety.

Sirius-sama took the pendant and wore it. Then, he patted our heads.

“Thank you. I’ll take good care of it.” (Sirius)

I feel everything is worth it with that smile. It was hard but I think we did well.

“Oh yeah, I also have things for you guys.” (Sirius)

As Sirius-sama said it, he brought out a small box. There are two unusually short necklaces decorated with magic stone inside the box. Sirius-sama took out the one with green magic stone and gave it to me.

“Didn’t you say you wanted collar before? As for this necklace, I think it looks similar so I made it. This also can be called a choker or short

necklace." (Sirius) (TLN: collar and necklace both have same kanji, but I think collar in this novel is more on the slavery.)

Although I said it several times in the past... he was thinking about it.

He handed a red choker to Reus and earring attached with magic stone to Reese.

"What I have given you is something with magic stone that depicted with [Call] magic formation. Therefore, if you pour it with mana, your voice can reach me." (Sirius)

"Awesome Aniki! It was completed at last!" (Reus)

"Nope it hasn't, in fact it needs further improvement. Although it stores mana by naturally absorbing it from the air but it takes long time to absorb mana and the calling time is short. But oh well, it's better than nothing. If you are coming back late like this time, you can tell a word, right?" (Sirius)

He explained that the magic formation will store mana like the barrier of the school and other various things but I barely heard it because I couldn't take my eyes off the choker.

"Sirius-sama... I have a request." (Emilia)

"That's unusual for Emilia. What is it?" (Sirius)

"Would it be alright if Sirius-sama put choker on me?" (Emilia)

"Hmm... alright." (Sirius)

When I lift up the hair on the back of my head, Sirius-sama's arms surrounded my neck. I am glad with that alone but when the choker made clicked sound, my heart trembled with delight.

"Is it tight? I can adjust the size, you know." (Sirius)

"No...I'm satisfied with this." (Emilia)

It is not a collar but with this, I am Sirius-sama's slave. He probably will deny it but I have been deciding about this.

"Aniki, Aniki! Me too!" (Reus)

“M-me too, please!” (Reese)

“Yes, yes, go line up.” (Sirius)

Reus and Reese also were happy when Sirius-sama put on their presents.

“Yeah, it looks good on everyone. It was worthwhile to make it.” (Sirius)

“Thank you very much…uhuhu…” (Emilia)

“Nee-chan, are you alright? Get a grip.” (Reus)

“It’s hopeless, she’s completely ‘gone’.” (Reese)

Aahh…I’m so happy.

—

Extra/Bonus

The things that been inherited to Reus by Lior.

- Hard Break – One Hand Sword Style – Hard Wave Slash,
- Metamorphosis characteristics (Although it is his nature, it troubles his Shishou, Sirius, greatly.)
- Flag Crusher,

Intermission 3: A Collapsed Challenger

– Bandits' underling –

I think it's difficult to survive.

I lost my parents when I was young. I, who was being raised in an orphanage, walked away from the orphanage to become an adventurer.

It's not that I was getting tired with the orphanage. It's because I know that Sister-kaasan who manages the orphanage is having trouble with money. (TLN: He called her as a mother and she is a Sister from church.) That's why I became an adventurer to help Sister-kaasan but I had my hands full with living just by selling monster's raw materials and handling requests. Speaking of me getting out of the orphanage, I think the orphanage has less one mouth to feed when I'm not there.

I was desperately living through this and before I noticed, five years have passed.

Furthermore, I became penniless since I got cheated recently so I became desperate and joined the local bandit organization, [Wolf's Fang].

It's been only two days when I joined the bandit organization so I haven't stolen anything or attacked anyone but... I laughed at how low I've become.

"What is it, boy? Why are you laughing suddenly?" (Lior)

"Nah... don't worry about me." (??)

My job is to watch for merchants that comes through the highway in the forest. And if I find a merchant, I will chop a nearby tree to make them stranded, return back to the hideout, and make a report.

So I kept on watching and I didn't find any merchants but a strange old man.

I've been watching from above a tree and when that strange huge old man came, he collapsed. It seemed like he fell down because he was

hungry, so to make me take on a meal, I hunted a nearby monster and cooked something simple.

I was thinking to take all his possession because I was a bandit but since I know the pain of being hungry, I helped him inadvertently. For me to do such a thing, I think I'm not suited to be a bandit. The old man who finished eating the meal got well in no time, he said he wanted to return favor and I kept him accompany while surveying him.

He carries an abnormally huge greatsword and his muscles are abnormally bulged up and that kept me watching him.

"But no one is coming. Aren't you bored, boy?" (Lior)

"It is my job. If I don't like it, I would probably go somewhere else." (Bandit) "I have received a meal from you, boy. I'm saved because of your meal." (Lior)

I don't feel good to be called as boy but since I know for sure that I can't beat this old man if I handle this poorly, I'll just let him call me what he wants. I don't think I can beat an old man that carries such lump of iron easily.

The afternoon passed just like that and let alone any travelers but not one merchant went by. I continued watching out since I didn't have to do any other things and the old man who sat nearby spent his free time tending his sword. It couldn't be helped for him to feel bored so he spoke to me after he was done with his sword.

"Come to think of it, the meal that you boy cooked just now was considerably delicious. Your skill is good too so isn't better for you to be cook rather than bandit?" (Lior) "...I have no money and the time needed to procure food outside is long, you know." (Bandit) "Is that so? It's a waste when you have such skills, you know." (Lior)

Truthfully, I don't want to be an adventurer or a bandit but I wanted to be a cook. Thus, I worked hard to learn cooking and I hoped I could open my own restaurant someday.

But when did I give up after learning that harsh reality?

I don't have money even if I wanted to be a cook. Even if I want to open a shop, employing workers, cooking utensils, food ingredients... they all require money. Is it alright for me aiming to become a cook when I don't have money? Old man, you're saying this in your own way without getting affected with my circumstances...

While thinking about that, I looked at the old man without saying anything and he suddenly stared intensely at me. Oops, did I say it out loud?

"Boy... something is coming." (Lior)

The old man said that and turned his eyes to the highway but I couldn't see anything.

"Nothing is coming. You're saying nonsense, Jii-san." (Bandit)

"It will come soon with that speed, you know? Look, over there." (Lior)

When I looked where the old man pointed at, it was far but I surely think that's a carriage.

...Perhaps I should say it was very far, but how did the old man notice it? Although I only noticed it at that distance because of my good eyes, he said it earlier confidently.

"Err Jii-san, could you have, by any chance, known that a carriage was coming?" (Bandit) "That's not it. I just perceived it's presence. Isn't this natural to do something like this as an adventurer?" (Lior) No, that's absolutely not true.

I did jobs with intermediate and advanced adventurers in the past but I haven't met someone who can perceive from such distances.

While I still have doubt, the old man stood before a big tree and looked at me.

"The next flow is to chop the tree to block the road, right?" (Lior)

"Aa, aah... yes, it is. Since I have hatchet, I would chop tree to block the road. But since the tree is big, it's impossible–..." (Bandit) When I took out the hatchet from my bag, a loud noise reverberated and the big tree

next to the old man fell down. Next to me was the figure of an old man who swung his sword.

“What a fragile tree.” (Lior)

“...” (Bandit)

It would probably take half a day to chop down that big tree with my hatchet but that old man took it down in an instant. The tree fell to the side of the highway but... the old man lightly picked it up and set it in the middle of highway.

I looked dumbfoundedly at that sight because the most troublesome work was done easily.

” Jii-san... what on earth are you?” (Bandit)

“Hmmm? I’m just a common old man who’s on travel. It’s nothing to be surprised, you boy can do it right?” (Lior) “Is that possible!?” (Bandit)

“Though that boy could do it, it’s weird huh...” (Lior) (TLN: He meant Sirius or Reus) He talked to himself but what had I picked up? I probably had picked up a dangerous man and I started to regret about this soon.

“Anyway, the preparation is perfect. Look boy, this is not a situation for you to make that puzzled face, you know?” (Lior) “Aa, aah... but we can only confirm the other party when they get closer.” (Bandit) By looking from here, I could only see a carriage but I don’t know who they were. It is because I want to avoid it in case of a strong adventurer and not a merchant,.

I waited for a while and finally I could confirm their identity when they got closer.

“Wow, it appears that that is a merchant who you have been waiting for. Then, immediately–...hmm, what’s wrong, boy?” (Lior) “That is... I have no doubt.” (Bandit)

There were two strong men who seemed to be the guards of the carriage but the one that I gave my attention too was the man who sat on the coachman stand. With that fat belly, he reminds me of someone who has

a greed for money. That guy was a guy who meddled with our orphanage.

He came to the orphanage many times and wanted to take me, who has no relation with him, and other kids but I remember that Sister-kaasan refused everything. He seemed like a good person from what we've heard but we understood later that he was a slave merchant. The Sister-kaasan knew about it but she never thought about selling us even after how hard life was and she continued to decline him firmly.

After a short while, the orphanage caught on fire and my younger sister died because she got rolled up in it. After that, the slave merchant was not only not coming too help but he disappeared from the town. Thus, I am convinced that the slave merchant was the criminal.

To meet that slave merchant in such place... this also must be fate.

Although I have fallen as a bandit, I'm still hesitate to attack people but if it's this guy, I would attack him without reserve.

"Is he someone you know, boy?" (Lior)

"I'm not related to him but I know what kind of guy he is. That guy is a slave merchant and he was the criminal who burned my house." (Bandit) "Hmm... I don't understand it but he's a bad guy, right?" (Lior)

"Aah, that's right. I'm glad that my first work is him. I can attack that guy without reserve and the decision to continue being a bandit lives on." (Bandit) Thanks to the old man, those guys will stuck here for a while. It seemed the number of escorts was few so I should go report to the base immediately. But when I looked at the old man, he who stood beside me earlier was standing grandly in the middle of the road.

"O-oi Jii-san, what are you doing!? I'm going to return and call for my friends now so don't meddle unnecessarily." (Bandit) "In short, it is fine to snatch valuables from those guys right? They'll probably run away while you call your friends, isn't it better to do it as soon as possible?" (Lior) "They also have guards so can we do it with two only?! Listen, I'll go there immediately and come back, Jii-san!" (Bandit) "I have no problem with them. Besides, it seems like the other party noticed us too." (Lior) I called the old man to return while hiding behind the tree but it was already too

late. The escorts who walked along the carriage looked at the tree that blocked the road and the old man who stood magnificently crossing his arms and approached cautiously.

"What is that old man doing in the middle of the road? You're a hindrance so move it." (Escort1) "No, can we even move the tree behind him? Hey old man, do you know since when has the tree been there?" (Escort2) "I know it, it was since few minutes ago. Of course since I put it." (Lior)

""Haa!?"" (Guard)

Oi old man... although the escorts were so unprepared no matter how you look at it, why would you expose your doings? Three additional escorts came out from the carriage so no matter how strong the old man is, the difference in number is just too obvious.

I was wondering whether I should jump out or not but I felt like already losing even when there's one extra. It's pathetic but is there no other way than giving up because of that old man's doing?

"Oi oi, what is going on?" (Slave Merchant)

"No, it's not only the old man blocking the road, he said he put the tree behind him. I am troubled of what to do." (Escort1) "... It's surely troublesome. Oi, you old man over there, what on earth do you want to do?" (Escort2) "You're wrong, I'm not a old man, I'm just a ordinary traveler. Anyway, leave all of your valuables." (Lior) I don't even understand what he meant by 'anyway'. Besides, even if he said he was a traveler, no matter how you look at his action and words, you can't see him as nothing but a bandit.

The other party's reaction was perplexed by what that lump of muscle old man said but the trader ordered the escorts while having cold eyes.

"Whatever you do is alright with that slow headed old man. Get rid of him if he becomes a hindrance." (Slave Merchant) "Understood. Since this is the employer's order, don't think of us badly, old man." (Escort1) "Did you think I would do such a foolish thing?" (Lior)

“Take that out quickly. Is your sword just for decoration, you fool!” (Escort2)

When the old man drew the sword behind his back and made huge swing to the escorts, wind arose and greatly shook the surrounding trees. The escorts were disturbed with that force but the two escorts that were out from the carriage since the beginning didn’t flinched and prepared weapons against the old man.

“This guy is a formidable opponent.” (Escort1)

“Aah, do you think you can beat us, the ‘Mirror brothers’?” (Escort2)

The two called ‘Mirror Brothers’ were wearing same clothes and swords as if they are mirroring each other. Since their faces also similar, I guess they are twins.

Then, the two began to run towards the old man at the same time and since their running appearance were similar and crossed zigzagging many times, it was their strategy to confuse the opponent. It was nothing if they were seen from the side but they displayed a threat if seen from the front.

“The old man’s strength is probably tremendous, can we defeat him?” (Escort1)

“Eat this!” (Escort2)

One of them made a big jump while the other assault from sideways at the same time. If it’s me, I would be swayed, late to respond or couldn’t respond with any technique but speaking of the old man...

“You’re not bad but this is easy since there is a fool jumping out!” (Lior)

The scary thing was the old man jumped at the same time with his opponent, and then he swung his sword down. The man who couldn’t move his body in the air concluded that he couldn’t evade the attack so he defended with the sword he had but the old man’s greatsword cut him right in half.

The other man took a chance from that gap to attack but the old man was faster. While still in a swinging posture in midair, the old man swung

sideways, the other man had his upper body part neatly separated from the lower body part.

Or perhaps I should say, the old man is the suspicious one!? To swing a greatsword lightly like feather, as if he's been moving only to kill.

Seriously, what have I picked up!?

“””…””” (Other 3 escorts)

“What is it? Next!” (Lior)

The remaining escorts completely lost hope at the old man's abnormality. I think it is reasonable for them to surrender if they are shown such a spectacle. If I'm the one who stood there, I would have already given up.

“…O-oi. You guys, go get him.” (Slave Merchant)

“No! With that kind of opponent, no matter how many lives I have, it's not going to be enough!” (Escort3) “What is this, why has such a monster appeared on the highway!?” (Escort4)

“What is it, if you're not coming, I'll be coming at you.” (Lior)

“””I surrender!””” (Escort3/4/5)

They were just adventurers and their decision was quick. Those three threw their weapons immediately and knelt on the ground. That old man was looking uninterestedly, he released his combat readiness and placed the sword on his shoulder, pointed his finger from the escorts to the ground.

“I'm not going to take your life if you surrender but do you still remember what I've said in the beginning?” (Lior) “E-err…leave the valuables…right?” (Escorts)

“Hmmm. After all, if I tell in detail, leave your weapon too. Anyhow, leave this place. Well, I allow you to leave with your clothes on.” (Lior) “Say, how about our life…” (Escort)

“I don't know. You're the bad ones since you knew he is a slave trader. But if it's your life, it's fine.” (Lior) That old man, isn't he a more talented

at being a bandit compared to me?

And then, he kept giving ridiculous orders for a short while.

“Not just your weapons, your armor to! Take off everything!” (Lior)

“Hiiii!?” (Escorts)

“Come on, take it out! Take whatever you have because I can hear the sound of money! I’m telling you, don’t try to hide it!” (Lior) “S-sorryyy!” (Escorts)

“I hear adventurers sew money on their clothes in case of emergency but… how about others?” (Lior) “Forgive us, we’ll take it out immediately!” (Escorts)

…Old man, you’re really want to take away everything. He doesn’t seem too want to take there life but if it’s only attitude, is he not as bad as a bandit?

He took everything away just like that, even if they ran away, the only remaining was the slave merchant. The horse also got scared and wasn’t able to move because the old man kept glaring, and the merchant who was amateur at fighting also unable to move.

“Hmm this is fewer than what I expected. How about this, boy? Are these good enough?” (Lior) “…I also don’t expect that.” (Bandit)

I stopped hiding when I looked at the old man starting to calculate the stolen money and valuables. I didn’t want to be seen as his friend and that’s why I didn’t go out but since I wanted to ask that merchant, it’s different.

“W-what are you guys?” (Slave Merchant)

“I’ve been telling you before, I’m just an ordinary traveler.” (Lior)

“How on earth are you an ordinary traveler!? Whose instigation is this!?” (Slave Merchant) “I’m nobody. If I have to say it, I think you are being unlucky to go pass here.” (Lior) ” Jii-san, I have something to say to this guy so will you let me?” (Bandit)

“Hmmm.” (Lior)

Has the old man understood my serious mood because he refrained himself from saying anything at the back.

While feeling thankful towards the old man, I pointed my sword at the merchant. He was scared until he couldn't move from the coachman seat, so I asked question.

"Hey, aren't you slave trader? Didn't you take children from the orphanage back in the past?" (Bandit) "W-what are you saying? I don't know any orphanage!" (Slave Merchant)

"Is that so? Although you said it confidently, the old man at the back won't be silent if you lie, you know?" (Bandit) The old man began to pretend, according to my say, by swinging his sword. Wind rolled behind my back and I was slightly scared but I'm grateful that he matched the rhythm.

"How about it? Your life doesn't matter since I'm a bandit. If you're not honest, I'll kill you and take away your carriage." (Bandit) "Nuuu! I'm going to kill him! The time is right!" (Lior)

"Hiiiiiiiiii-! I know the orphanage! I took the children and sold them as slaves!" (Slave Merchant) The old man rode the situation and sliced the tree he put on the road but... isn't he good at acting?

A situation where the thick tree was completely sliced like paper was shown, the trader's spirit was easily broken. That was great but was it necessary to slice the tree?

"Well then, one more question. Didn't you setup the fire on some orphanage five years ago?" (Bandit) "T-that is..." (Slave Merchant)

"My sword has a thirst for blood!" (Lior)

"Y-yes! I set up the fire! Since a stubborn woman kept declining many times, for the sake of revenge—..." (Slave Merchant) Thereupon, the merchant's voice was interrupted. The reason was simple, it was because I cut off his head.

Since I've become an adventurer for five years, things like killing people would happen many times. But that was because I was attacked, and it is

necessary to attack them back in order to survive. I made progress as I don't want to kill people but it's different if it's this guy.

Because of him causing the fire, life got more difficult, my brothers and sisters were in trouble, and above all, my precious younger sister died. The revenge that I've already given up was unexpectedly... I was able to carry it out.

I set aside the rolled neck, my tears naturally flowed as I put my swords back in.

—

The old man moved the round sliced tree from the highway without saying anything while I cried until I calmed down for little while.

"...Thank you, Jii-san." (Bandit)

"What is it? I'm just acting no more than a fake bandit, you know." (Lior)

"But still. Thanks to you, I was able to carry out my revenge. I just want to say thanks." (Bandit) "Don't worry about it. I have received a meal from you boy, so we're even." (Lior) "Is that so? Alright. I'm glad I found you, Jii-san." (Bandit)

Well, the gloomy talk has finished so what should I do from now on? Anyhow, I rob the escorts' money and obtained the trader's carriage entirely. It's sufficient result for working as a bandit.

However... my head was full with revenge which made me forget that this guy was a slave trader.

Of course, inside his carriage was...

"...They're in there as expected." (Bandit)

"It's only girls and children huh." (Lior)

There was a big cage among the carriages, and there were three slaves imprisoned inside it. All of them were beastkin and they were put on with

slave collar, and it was natural for them to be scared when they saw the old man and I who suddenly appeared.

“Err...who are you guys? So, the escorts are no more?” (Slave1)

“Well... we are...” (Bandit)

The rabbitkin who seemed to be the oldest among three of them spoke. I was troubled of what I should say but the old man answered while laughing.

“We are a traveler and a bandit who happened to pass by. The owner and the escorts for this carriage have been chased away.” (Lior) “Bandit!?” (Slave1)

“Arrgh, Jii-san, just shut up!” (Bandit)

Since they were getting more frightened when they heard about bandit, I raised both my hands, The slaves finally calmed down, I was pulled by the old man and led to the exterior part of the carriage.

“What do you plan to do with those children? Are you going to return to your hideout?” (Lior) “Aah, you...are right.” (Bandit)

Although there are some who discriminate beastkin, bandits are always hungry of women. Therefore, if I bring those guys with me, I assume I’ll be considerably promoted. Looking at today’s result, I may not need to work as a lookout anymore.

Besides that, the amount of money that I will make will increase. If I do so, I probably can help Sister-kaasan.

But...these girls’ eyes looked like the eyes of my brothers and sisters in the orphanage. They didn’t say anything but their eyes appealed desperately for help.

“It will be difficult to let them free since they were already the collar put on and it’s going to be hard for them to survive too.” (Lior) “That’s right. But I...” (Bandit)

—

“Excellent, you guys, cheers!” (??)

After that, we took the package that we stole back to the hideout.

It seemed that there were companions who acted separately from us and attacked a big company and we’re having feast in the hideout since they gained a considerable income.

“Nevertheless, what has the rookie been doing!? You pillaged a trader and made money without calling us.” (??) “No... I was just lucky.” (Bandit)

“Even so. It is regrettable. If the merchant whom you attacked hasn’t returned with his goods, you would be praised by the boss over there.” (??) Yeah... I let them go after all.

I found the key for the slave collars from the body of trader whom I murdered, and I freed the slaves. I forcibly handed over half of the stolen money and the carriage, and I bid them farewell. I was thanked by the girls but I honestly want to help them and I should send them to a safe place.

But, I am a bandit. So, what I did was giving them a chance and it’s up to the girl’s’ strength to stay alive after that.

I parted from them, carrying half the portion of money and goods on my back and returned to the hideout, and then I reported the outcome in this way.

I attacked the small number of merchant’s escorts but I couldn’t make a lot of money since he returned with his goods. Besides that, since my horse died in battle, I wasn’t able to secure the carriage...

The boss was disgusted but I wasn’t blamed because there was some income, my evaluation went up a bit and I was allowed to participate in the feast.

—

I was focusing on eating because I didn’t feel like drinking but I was shown something different on the other side of the feast.

“Ooo–! The old man’s drinking style is good!” (??)

“This is how you drink sake! Huhahaha!” (Lior)

“Well, how about this one? This strong sake that I stole from trader can burn like a fire, you know?” (??) “Which one? Hmmm…well then!” (Lior)

…For some reason, the old man followed me to the hideout.

I certainly think that he would follow the girls but he said he still hadn’t return the favor so he stayed.

He wanted to help bring the stolen money and goods. He will be accepted if I told them about him being useful since he is a strong old man. He participated in the feast nonchalantly, I don’t understand, how did he get along well with others. Anyhow, the sake he drank just now, ‘Killing Sake’ can make someone faint with a gulp. And yet he didn’t drink with cup but drank it directly.

“The old man whom you brought is interesting. Can he really swing that sword?” (??) “Aah, he swings it like a twig. This is my first time meeting such strong old man.” (Bandit) “Yeah… he somewhat got mixed up in it. By the way, is that old man very strong? It’s all good since the boss allowed it but the damage will be great if he acts violently.” (??) “I think it will be alright.” (Bandit)

Although we’ve known each other for a mere half day, I understood that the old man won’t swing his sword without reason. There are numerous high tension actions but he is returning the favor so he resigns from killing other than his enemies.

Unless no one hit the switch, they won’t be attacked by the old man.

“Oi boss! I just returned.” (??)

“Ou, you’re late. Did something happened?” (Boss)

“It’s nothing, I found a carriage with no escort when I returned, as I was attacked on the highway!” (??) Another group was late returned with result.

The result was somehow or rather unexpected, they entered the hideout

with good mood because of it.

"Look! Although there is trace of being slaves, aren't these three girls pretty? We can enjoy entirely for today's feast!" (??) They are the girls that I let go.

Though they smiled when we separated, they had despair eyes similar when they were in the cage.

"O-oi rookie!" (??)

I started to run when I noticed, and I hit the man who caught the girls.

I protected those dumbfounded girls behind my back, I was confronted by the bandits who had misgivings eyes.

"...What is your intention, rookie?" (??)

"N-no... these are my younger sisters, so I want you to stop...I think?" (Bandit)

Aah, what have I really done!?

Even though I let them go secretly and made false report... why were they suddenly caught!?

Though I should have abandoned them... though I shouldn't have jumped out, my body moved on its own!

"It seems like... a punishment before these girls." (??)

"Shall we have side entertainment, guys!?" (??)

By the boss order, fifty nearby bandits started making noise. They all picked up weapons and slowly approaching us. The girls who I hid behind shiveringly grabbed my clothes but it's impossible for single person to face these number of opponents.

I couldn't escape because I was surrounded... I'm going to die.

"Hmmm, although it's early, shall we?" (Lior)

The moment I heard such carefree voice... a bandit whirled to the sky.

While ten nearby bandits whirled into the sky and dropped down

unsightly, the old man swung down his sword while laughing. And before I knew it, he threw a mantle that he was holding at me and shouted while cutting the nearby bandit in half.

"Boy! Cover the girl's' eyes! Protect them even if you die!" (Lior)

I didn't think about the reason and like the old man said, I wrapped the girl's' head with the mantle. They resisted a bit but they didn't after I hugged them.

"It's alright! Don't move because I will protect you guys no matter what!" (Bandit) There is no basis or reason but I said it with confidence. And when I turned to pick up a sword in order to protect against bandit who target the girls... the place become a hell.

"Hahahaha! So fragile! Even a tree is stronger!" (Lior)

"What is this guy– guhaa!" (??)

"H-help– oguu!" (??)

"Someone who can use magic, do– agyyaaa!?" (??)

Whenever the old man swung his sword, the body of the thief disappeared, and their hands or feet were scattered. While soothing the girls a bit, half of the bandits were killed.

"Run fast from this monster–!" (??)

"No one will escape! 'Hard Break'!" (Lior)

When he swung his sword while shouting something, an impact that I didn't understand happened and the gathered bandits were struck and sunk into the wall. It was my first time seeing someone fly horizontally. Yeah.

Now that I noticed... am I not needed here?

Although I said I would protect them even if I died, that was only against those who escape from the old man but it seemed there was no space for them to escape huh?

"You bastard! How dare you bring such monster!" (??)

When I thought there was one bandit coming at me, I prepared my weapon but the bandit was cut in half before I dealt with him, and there was a figure of the old man who swung down his sword from behind.

“Didn’t I say no one can escape!?” (Lior)

Err... even if he didn’t say that to me, why do I tremble so much? Though the girls didn’t see or get hit with the old man’s bloodthirst, they trembled more and more.

“Hei hei, next!” (Lior)

“””Help—!””” (??)

—

And then, the hell was over.

We escaped from the room that was smeared with red and assembled at the boss’ room that was comparatively clean.

“It’s going to be alright from now on. You guys can remove the mantle.” (Lior)

“Y-yes...please.” (Girl)

The old man asked me to block their eyes with mantle because he didn’t want to let those girls see terrible sights. It was surely an intense scene for a girl and children so the old man’s action was correct.

Whether he is a monster or not, he still has in mind to worry about girls and children.

“Huhuhu... you don’t have to be afraid of me. I am nice person.” (Lior)

...I thought of something different though. Anyhow, I took off their mantle and smiled at them.

“You don’t have to worry this time since the bandits were exterminated.” (Bandit) “Not just once but twice... Thank you very much.” (Girl)

“Thank you, Onii-chan!” (Girl2)

“Thank you very much!” (Girl3)

They understood that they were saved, and they embraced me while shedding tears. I’m happy but... it wasn’t me who helped them but the old man. I am not the person who should be thanked.

“Hmm, the one who helped you guys was not me but that old man at the back. I wasn’t able to do anything.” (Bandit) “That’s wrong. Although you are a bandit, you did not only free us but you protected us when we got caught again. There is not anyone who can do that.” (Girl1) “You were reliable, Onii-chan.” (Girl2)

“For whatever reason, we were saved.” (Girl3)

They were grateful until that extent huh?

Apart from Sister-kaasan, I, who lived desperately, almost had no time to be appreciated. I became happy because of their pure thought that touched my heart.

“And then Ojii-san, for helping us– hiii!?” (Girl1)

“Thank you, Ojii– nyaaa!?” (Girl2)

“Very strong–kyaaa!?” (Girl3)

When they want to thank the old man, they hid behind my back while screaming. The old man who looked at that scene, he was no doubt the man who defeated the bandits but there was no mistake that he was overwhelmed with how the girls reacted.

“Wha...why!? Even though they didn’t see it! Shouldn’t you say ‘thank you, Ojii-chan!’?” (Lior) “No, look at your body, old man.” (Bandit)

It was deep red because of the blood. To make matters worse, the bandits’ fingers and meat were attached to his body, Although I’m experienced with it, I’m still scared you know.

“Nuoooo–! I want to be called as Ojii-chan by a grandchild! Emiliaaaa!” (Lior)

A grandchild...will there be a grandchild for the old man that looks like a monster?

By the way, who is Emilia?

—

After that, we gathered valuable goods in the hideout and took a carriage. Then we came over to the nearby town.

I sold the valuable goods that I collected, and I reported that the old man annihilated the bandit group 'Wolf's fang' and asked for a reward. They disputed because there was no proof but the guildhead came out midway and forced me out.

In the following day, I gathered the bandits' personal things and brought to them. The old man who stole the money from the escorts spent it the way he likes and the girls now are not slaves any more, they are already ordinary people. They are probably going to face hardship but I want them to live like normal even if for a little bit.

"Thank you so much... for buying us a lot of things." (Girl1)

"The old man said to spend it the way I like, so don't mind about it. However, what will you guys do from now on?" (Bandit) "In regards of that, we would like to repay your kindness. Therefore, will you take us along with you?" (Girl1) "What?" (Bandit)

The bandit organization has been annihilated, since I'm not a bandit anymore, I plan to return to my hometown. I got the money and I plan to open restaurant in my hometown. And I decided to support the Sister-kaasan financially with the money I gained this time.

The girls said they want to come with me.

"Me too, please. Since I'll be helpful for sure." (Girl1)

"Did you tell Ojii-chan that you want to open a restaurant? If that's the case, you want manpower and I can work as your assistant." (Girl2) "Will that be alright? You guys have gained freedom, you know?" (Former Bandit)

"We have decided to follow you since we are freed. Is it no good?" (Girl1)

“Have it your way. It’s just that I don’t know whether I am able to support you or not. So you have to prepare yourself.” (Former Bandit) As what the girls said, it is necessary to have manpower for the restaurant, and I couldn’t abandon them after all. If we’re going to depart like this, I decided to rescue the girls if they are kidnapped again.

“””Thank you very much.””” (Girls)

I felt awkward and couldn’t respond with anything and then the old man appeared slightly away from the adventurer guild. I immediately noticed him since he has a huge body and shouldering a huge sword.

By the way, I’d sold various things and doubled the reward for annihilating the bandits, so I planned to distribute the money. Even if I say so, the old man was the one who entirely earned the income by acting violently. Thus, I have no right to make the decision. Since it was the situation where I took care of the girls, I would be happy even if I receive only a little bit.

“Hey, this is your portion.” (Lior)

“I’m sorry…. ehhh!?” (Former Bandit)

When I looked at the pouch he thrown casually, it was filled with dozens of gold coins. As for the old man, he only had two gold coins in his hand.

“Well, it was because of considerable size of bandit’s group and since I’ve been saved in many ways, I easily made earnings.” (Lior) “…Aren’t these white gold coins?” (Former Bandit) (TLN: Literal meaning of the kanji is white gold but maybe it can be platinum also?) “What are you saying? Look, isn’t this a splendid gold coin? Are those enough for you guys?” (Lior) This old man is spreading a lie to the surrounding with transparent expression. Maybe it is said that I’ll be aimed by those who have sharped eyes when it comes to money but what on earth is he thinking? No matter how I look at it, the old man’s portion is too little.

The girls looked into the pouch but I blocked their surprised mouth.

“Why are you doing this? I barely did anything?” (Former Bandit)

“Hmmm? Aren’t you going to take care the girls? If that’s the case, you’ll need the money.” (Lior) “What did you say? But still, I received too much.” (Former Bandit)

“If it’s you, I think it’s different, right? I alone can find money as much as I like so you don’t have to worry about me. I wasn’t found by the thief once, and there’s a matter of yesterday where I collapsed…” (Lior) …He’s hopeless.

He told me while laughing that before he collapsed, he tried to hunt monsters to eat them because he was hungry but the monsters ran away with all their might so he couldn’t hunt them at all.

How should I say this, does he live like that every day? I see that my five years of struggling is smaller compared to him.

“By the way, if you didn’t liberate the girls from slavery and let them go, I probably would have killed you at that place.” (Lior) D-dangerous! Was my life at risk during that time? I’m glad I wasn’t too greedy.

“Hey, the troublesome talks end here. I plan to leave immediately after eating. Eat all you want because i will pay.” (Lior) “Are you going to leave soon?” (Former Bandit)

“Hmmm. I’m traveling because I want to become strong. There is no more strong people in this area and I plan to search other places.” (Lior) “Is that so? I’m really indebted to you. Anyhow, I haven’t heard Jii-san’s name. Will you finally tell me?” (Former Bandit) The truth is, I’ve noticed about him. I can’t think any other person who swing a huge sword and completely mowing down the bandits with immeasurable strength.

He is Lior, the ‘Strongest Sword’.

This old man is certainly that legendary man.

“My name is Lio– no, that’s not it. My name is Ikkitousen. To beat a certain man, I am just ordinary challenger who tries to become stronger.” (Lior) (TLN: Ikkitousen can also mean ‘one who matches thousands’) For the sake of getting stronger, is there someone stronger than this legendary man!?

No… that doesn't matter to me. It would be thoughtless only to ask and since he wants to hide his name, the only thing I can do is to match the rhythm.

"Understood. Thank you very much, Tousen-san. I absolutely won't forget this favor." (Former Bandit) "Huhahaha, don't mind about it. Leaving that aside, shall we have a meal? Oi, bring all the dishes of this store!" (Lior) Even if he ordered once, I thought the legendary man was really splendid.

—

The old man eats up the dishes of the restaurant and he would pay…

"That would be three gold coins…" (Waiter?)

"I don't have enough! Lend it to me!" (Lior)

"…Here you go." (Former Bandit)

And because of that, I am aware that the legendary man is a fool.

—

Extra

The man seemed to return some gold coins afterwards because it was the money which Lior earned formerly.

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